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Palestinian Affairs

4 Feb Israeli Bus Attack Commented, Claimed

Attack 'Termed Heroic'

JN0502085490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0825 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Brother strugglers, our kinfolk everywhere: Yesterday, the staff of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio along the path of liberating land and man, broadcast a talk by the Al-Quds political editor. A group of our dear heroes, who refused to be humiliated and disgraced, responded and carried out the heroic Rafah operation immediately after the Al-Quds Radio call was broadcast. The heroes moved and carried out the operation. They were very close to martyrdom, but God was their guard and protector because they were responding to the call of defending our sanctities and our right to Palestine. Brother strugglers, our kinfolk everywhere, your radio, Al-Quds Radio, will today exclusively broadcast the communiques issued on the heroic Rafah operation, the operation of attacking the Zionists' bus and killing scores of Zionists—the operation that came as a reply to the steps of capitulation being prepared. Brothers, Al-Quds will be with you after a short while in order to present the details of the heroic operation. God is with us and victory is imminent. We are together along the path of liberating land and man.

Islamic Jihad Statement

JN0502122090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1121 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Brother strugglers: The Al-Quds Radio correspondent in Beirut has sent us the military communique issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem]. The following is the full text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Military Communique:

At a time when preparations are under way in the Camp David capital to hold the dialogue of capitulation among a Zionist delegation and a delegation claiming to be Palestinian, although it does not represent even itself, and an Egyptian mediation delegation to facilitate and cover the capitulation process and sell our Arab rights in Palestine in the market of bargains and speculations; at a time when silence is shrouding all the forces, whose stands we used to hear in defense of our Arab nation's rights, over the current capitulatory preparations and the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, which is providing our Zionist enemy, the enemy of the Arabs and Islam, with men who will turn into fighters against our people, our Arab nation, and our Islamic nation; and at a time when the trend of deviation in the Palestinian arena is working to rob the intifadah of its militant and jihad content, and is abandoning armed struggle in the interest of Zionism and in implementation of and preparation for capitulation, the martyr Misbah al-Suri unit from the Katibat 'Ushshaq al-Shahadah [martyrdom lovers batallion] affiliated to our forces launched a lightning attack with machine guns and hand grenades on a Zionist bus carrying a number of Jewish reserve officers, soldiers, and spies sent to Egypt in order to sow corruption and trickery in it. Our mujahidin were lying in wait for them on the road from the al-Sharqiyah Governorate to the central Nile Delta shortly before the call to sunset prayers on Sunday, 9 Rajab 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 4 February 1990. The valiant lovers of martyrdom succeeded in paralyzing the movement of the so-called Zionist security men who were accompanying the bus. The element of surprise did not allow them to use their weapons, which resulted in the death of two of them, who were recognized, at the front part of the bus. The lovers of martyrdom managed to carry out their operation with perfect success thanks to the help of God. They killed or wounded all the bus passengers. Although the Heliopolis Hospital director in Cairo said that 10 Jews admitted to his hospital had been killed, apart from those transferred to Ismailia Hospital, the enemy sources, along with the Egyptian authorities, continued to cut the number of those killed down to eight and the wounded to 17 in a bid to alleviate the wave of panic which struck the Jewish community in Palestine.

The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt-al-Maqdis presents this small operation to the chaste souls of the martyrs of the intifadah in Palestine—souls which are looking down from above and testify to our loyalty, just like the testimony of those who see and hear.

On this occasion, we urge our Islamic nation and our Arab people not to be idle, and to perform the religious duty of jihad. It is the response to what the Prophet warned us against when he saw, with his enlightened perception, how nations rallied against us like hungry people rushing for food.

We are witnessing the advance of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to our blessed land in military uniforms to exhaust our Muslim Arab people with tyranny and blasphemy. Meanwhile, the rulers are deaf and blind to all this; it is not the eyes that are blind, but the hearts.

Let those new strangers know that they are storming an area that has people, religion, and presence that will remove them as they removed the Tartars in the past.

The Islamic Jihad is lying in wait for you. You will soon be certain that these countries are not legendary for what the Zionist organizations fed your minds with; these countries are countries of Islamic fact and Arab mujahidin. They are not countries of milk and honey as they deluded you; they are the countries of death for invaders.

We are dutybound on this occasion to address a private talk to all Palestinian leaderships in all organizations and factions affiliated with the PLO. All your efforts did not

succeed and will not succeed in establishing a state for the Arabs through talks with the enemies of God. All your efforts did not succeed and will not succeed in preventing the serious emigration from Russia to Palestine. You have reached the end of the road, but you feel no despair from the American promises. And there also is Shamir, who is in daily contact with them [Americans]. We hope you will not lose hope of God's victory, and that you will return to fight the enemy as you and your people fought in the past to expel the Jews from where they expelled you. He who starts evil will receive the brunt of it.

This path, the path on which the enemies of God seize power, is unfair to the youths who followed you on the pledge of jihad and liberation. You have led those youths to the lethal abyss. Let those youths return to their first path and deprive them not from their life and religion. Let them fight for the sake of God.

O Muslim people of Egypt. Your soldiers are righteous. They liberated the entire region from the Western Crusade invasions and the Eastern Tartar invasions. Is it strange for the elite sons of God's Egypt, the asset of Islam, to participate in eliminating the gangs of spies who infiltrate into Egypt under the guise of tourism and normalization? However, the path of jihad is as clear as the sun. God guides the elite martyrs and mujahidin to this path.

God will certainly aid those who aid His cause; for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might, able to enforce His will. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis

Further on PLO-Soviet Jewish Immigration Talks

Talks 'Positive'

JN0302122890 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD says that the PLO will soon reach an agreement with the USSR on the Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel and that the talks, which are still underway in Tunis between the Palestinian leadership and Gennadiy Tarasov, the Soviet leadership's envoy, have produced positive points on this subject. Citing a prominent Palestinian official, AL-ITTIHAD says that the Palestinian leadership asked the Soviet envoy to halt direct flights of Soviet Jews from Moscow to occupied Palestine, to grant passports to those who want to emigrate, and to give them the right to return to the USSR.

The Palestinian source said answering these demands would stop the Soviet Jews' influx to Israel, particularly since they leave directly for Israel without passports. With passports, many of them would choose to emigrate to other countries.

Moscow, PLO 'To Reach Agreement'

LD0302143590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] We have just learned that the PLO is about to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union concerning the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and that talks currently held in Tunis between the Palestinian leadership and Gennadiy Tarasov, the envoy of the Soviet leadership, have resulted in positive points to this effect.

Informed Palestinian sources stated that a second extended session was held last night between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Gennadiy Tarasov, in the presence of several secretaries general of the Palestinian movement, and members of the Executive Committee of the organization.

These sources said that the Soviet side has shown its understandng of the Arab and Palestinian stance about the emigration of Soviet Jews, in light of the Israeli scheme aimed at settling them in the occupied territories. The two sides stressed the necessity of continuous consultations between them about developments in the emigration issue and its negative effects on the peace process.

The Soviet official yesterday had similar talks with Mr Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, which focused on the importance of carrying out urgent action to prevent the emigration from jeopardizing Palestinian rights and the peace possibilities in the region.

Soviet on 'Halt' to Direct Flights

JN0302180090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has termed Tunis talks between Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov and the Palestinian leaders on the subject of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel as positive.

Hawatimah said at a news conference that the Soviet side has emphasized the halt to direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, a measure that will give the Jewish emigrants a chance to choose destinations other than Israel. Hawatimah added that the Soviet envoy promised to raise the subject of Jewish emigration to Israel at the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. meeting in Moscow between Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker.

More on Discussions

JN0402212690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Feb 90 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Two leading Palestinian figures have urged that agreement and understanding be sought with

the Soviet Union over the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and on contacts to promote a Middle East settlement.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, told AL-ANBA' that Soviet envoy Tarasov communicated to the Palestinian leadership a Kremlin decision decreeing that Soviet Jews no longer need take direct flights to Tel Aviv but instead may stop off in third countries. Calling the step positive, both, however, noted that the USSR is bound by the Helsinki accords to observe individual rights to travel and free movement and to keep the door open for would-be emigrants from the Soviet Union.

Al-Hurani said that the Palestinian leadership is preparing a memorandum to the Soviet Government asking that prospective emigrants be allowed to apply for visas to such countries as the United States, Canada, and Australia, and that they be issued proper passports rather than laissez-passes. The Palestinian memorandum further asks that Moscow apply pressure on the U.S. Administration to remove the barriers preventing entry of Soviet Jews to the United States.

Hawatimah said that Tarasov had emphasized that his country would pursue a firm line in insisting that the Israeli Government not send Soviet Jews for settlement in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. Tarasov is further cited as stressing Moscow's steady support for an independent Palestinian state. He referred to the upgrading of Palestinian representation in Moscow to embassy level, which amounts to full legal and diplomatic recognition.

The Soviet diplomat pointed to his country's position calling for a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. According to Tarasov, Moscow will be prepared for overall Soviet-Arab cooperation and coordination in addition to the joint Palestinian-Soviet Committee. Hawatimah warned against attempts to drive a wedge between the Arabs and Soviets. He charged that Washington had blackmailed Mosocw into cutting back on the number of Soviet Jews destined for the United States and instead directing them to Tel Aviv. He dismissed U.S. public statements that Washington is opposed to the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestinian land. [passage omitted]

Executive Committee Issues Statement

JN0402202490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee; date and place not given]

[Text] A statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee: In the period 30 January-3 February, 1990, the PLO Executive Committee held a series of meetings in the Tunisian capital, with the participation of the brothers secretaries general and Palestinian leaders. During the meetings, the PLO Executive Committee studied political and organizational issues and made the appropriate decisions concerning them.

On the subject of our people's blessed intifadah, the participants paid tribute to the sons of our people—men, women, and children—as they continue their heroic intifadah with determination and persistence toward achieving its objectives—liberty, national independence, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Recent developments in the intifadah have revealed its magnitude, the depth of its popular support, and the active participation of all the forces and factions of our people. The participants praised highly the solidity of national unity among the ranks of the intifadah—at the leadership level and at all levels. They also noted the importance of the link between the democratic spirit in relations among the intifadah's struggling forces and its efficient ability to fight back against the intrigues of the Zionists and their attempts to spoil this deep unity.

In addition, the participants praised the important role played by the blessed intifadah in foiling the schemes of the Zionist occupiers and their protectors in Washington. They also expressed their adherence to the decisions adopted during the Palestine National Council's [PNC] 19th session, the Palestinian peace initiative, the declaration of independence, and their support for the sole, legitimate representative of our people, the PLO.

The PLO Executive Committee asserted the need to continue the basic and daily tasks to support the intifadah, guarantee its continuation, steadfastness and development, and consolidate its political and structural achievements. In this way, the intifadah can confront the war of starvation waged by the rulers of Israel against workers, employees, and craftsmen; protect merchants, national industry, and agriculture; develop educational, health, social, and institutional establishments; care for the martyrs' families, the captives, the injured, and the handicapped; and extend all necessary support to these national establishments so they can increase their contributions. The PLO Executive Committee is working to increase international mobilization in order to expose the crimes committed by the rulers of Israel and their practices aimed at suppressing the intifadah. It is also working to direct international condemnation of these crimes toward imposing sanctions and a boycott.

The PLO Executive Committee asserts its firm support for the Palestinian peace initiative, the Arab and international support and backing this initiative has gained, and the adoption of its political campaign. As for dialogue between representatives of the PLO and the Israeli Government, the Executive Committee is committed to the PNC decisions in this regard. While the Executive Committee displays the utmost degree of responsibility in its willingness to begin a serious dialogue with the Israeli Government—in the context of a preliminary stage leading to the international conference—it is still

running up against the very same Israeli stance and total U.S. support for this intransigent stance.

While the Executive Committee is responding decisively to the fabrications of the rulers of Israel and is resisting the pressure put upon it and the campaigns by hostile circles to cast doubts, it reaffirms its absolute right to form and announce its delegation to the dialogue, and its participation in every stage of the political process in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

The PLO Executive Committee also affirms its commitment to the dialogue, provided it takes place with an open agenda and under international supervision. It values and appreciates the role played by the insurgent masses of our people in facing these pressures and denying the rulers of Israel and Washington the opportunity they are trying to exploit and their attempts to create a split between our people and its leadership.

The Executive Committee studied the question of improving the performance of the PLO's institutions with the aim of improving their role in national action. It has decided to continue to improve the organizational structure of the PLO and activate and strengthen the Palestinian democratic practice and collective action at the leadership level. The Executive Committee also decided to intensify the work of the committee entrusted with reorganizing the PNC to prepare for convening a new PNC Session. The Executive Committee decided to ask the PNC presidency to call for an ordinary session of the PLO Central Council later this month.

The Executive Committee made an extensive review of Palestinian-Arab relations and the Executive Committee's future moves to improve these ties on the basis of the resolutions issued by the Arab summit in Casablanca and the joint Arab action to implement these resolutions. The Executive Committee praises highly the decision made by the Arab summit's chairman, His Majesty King Hassan II, to form the nine-member [as heard] committee following consultations with Brother President Yasir 'Arafat as stipulated by the summit resolution. The Executive Committee expresses the hope that this committee will begin working soon, because it is very important to activate the Arab role, foil the wagers on weakening the Arab position, and support the Palestinian peace initiative. At the same time, the Executive Committee praises the fraternal Arab states that are members of the committee to support the intifadah, for their agreement to hold a special session of the committee to fulfill its task.

The Executive Committee believes that circumstances are now favorable for raising the level of coordination among the Arab states concerned with the international conference, boost their joint action, and try to hold a meeting of these parties as soon as possible.

The Executive Committee praises efforts made by brothers and friends to rectify its relations with fraternal Syria and transcend all consequences of the past on the basis of Arab summit resolutions, particularly the recent one in Casablanca, and on the basis of mutual respect for each party's full independence and the nonintervention in its internal affairs.

Regarding Lebanon, the Executive Committee understands the importance of the al-Ta'if agreement and the Arab effort to end the fraternal Lebanese people's tragedy and strengthen their independence, sovereignty, and unity of their territories and institutions. This will help strengthen the security of our Palestinian people in Lebanon; ensure their rights, which are guaranteed by agreements signed between the PLO and the Lebanese legitimate authorities; and enable them to help their Lebanese brothers to confront the Zionist threat and liberate their territories from its occupation.

The Executive Committee believes that new horizons have been opened to raise the level of coordination and cooperation with fraternal Jordan. It respects its resolution to pursue its democratic option and wishes it further success in that direction. It also realizes that the dangers facing fraternal Jordan are the same as those facing our Palestinian people, foremost of which is the threat of Zionist aggression and the alternative homeland conspiracy. A collective Arab stance must be made to face that Zionist conspiracy, which Israel's rulers are marketing and working for.

The Executive Committee welcomes the convening of an Arab summit to bolster the unity of the Arab position and its determination to serve the Arab nation's objectives, deal with international developments, strengthen the Palestinian struggle and our people's blessed intifadah, support the Palestinian people's initiative, and halt the Jewish emigration to, and settlement in, the Palestinian territories. The Executive Committee also stresses the need to improve Arab popular action to support the intifadah. This shall include efforts to reactivate the Arab solidarity front and improve the forms and organizational work of the existing Arab mass organizations.

The PLO Executive Committee studied the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration and the danger that has resulted from it, especially after the U.S. Government has taken measures to limit the opportunity for the immigrants to enter the United States. This is so most of them can be sent to Israel, whose rulers do not conceal their plan to let these immigrant settle in our occupied Palestinian territories.

Human rights, which allow any person to emigrate from his homeland, should not enable him, under any circumstances, to settle in another people's land and threaten their right to self-determination.

The PLO Executive Committee has begun to work out practical measures with the Soviet leadership to deal with this serious development. The PLO Executive Committee appeals to all countries' governments, international organizations, and world opinion to support it against the danger of this emigration and to remove the

existing settlements from our Palestinian territories—settlements that constitute a serious obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It also urges all these parties to convene an international conference, to work to put our occupied land under temporary international supervision, to promote their solidarity with our people against Israeli repression, and to start a large-scale boycott of the occupiers.

The PLO Executive Committee expresses its hope that the East European countries' support for the Palestinian people's rights and international legitimacy will continue following the profound democratic changes that have occurred in these countries—changes that enjoy understanding and support from our people who are struggling to achieve their simplest democratic right of self-determination.

The PLO Executive Committee also expresses its deep appreciation to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for continuing their honest efforts to convene an international conference and support our people's rights. It also appreciates the PRC's firm position on this issue and the new Japanese position. The PLO Executive Committee also hails the EC's measures and positions, the latest of which is the European Parliament's decision to freeze cultural and scientific cooperation with the Israeli Government until schools and universities are reopened.

The PLO Executive Committee stresses the importance of the EC's participation in every phase of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it welcomes the EC's initiatives based on the Madrid Declaration to speed up efforts to convene the international conference. It also stresses the importance of the roles of the Scandinavian countries, the nonaligned countries, the African countries, and the Islamic countries in bringing about peace in the region. It encourages these countries to exert more efforts to convene an effective international conference.

The PLO Executive Committee, which is meeting in the capital of fraternal Tunisia, which is suffering from recent floods in the south, expresses its fraternal solidarity with Tunisia and urges the Arab brothers to extend support to fraternal Tunisia to overcome its losses. The Palestinian leadership expresses appreciation for Tunisia and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for their brotherly positions and for supporting our people's struggle and extending every support to them.

Pro-Syrians Ask Gorbachev To Stop Emigration

JN0402072290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Several pro-Syrian organizations yesterday sent a memorandum to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev requesting him to stop Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. The memorandum, which was handed to a diplomat in the USSR Embassy in Damascus, demanded that Gorbachev take the necessary measures to prevent those emigrants from becoming soldiers directing their rifles at the Arabs.

The signatories to the memorandum include the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril, the two wings of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party, the pro-Syrian factions of the Jordanian and Iraqi Ba'th parties, and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

Algeria

40,000 Demonstrate Over Cost of Living, UGTA

LD0102180190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Some 40,000 people have held a peaceful demonstration in Tizi Ouzou. They were protesting over the high cost of living and also over General Union of Algerian Workers' [UGTA] officials who are accused of careerism and of making arbitrary decisions. The trade unionists in Tizi Ouzou come out for a UGTA which is united in its democratic approach and in its structures and which is independent of all political parties. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Arrives in Senegal

LD0202085290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Mr Seyed Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister, arrived last night in Dakar. He said in a statement that his visit comes within the framework of good relations between the two countries, and the regular meetings in the framework of consultations initiated by presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Abdou Diouf.

As to the Senegalese-Mauritanian conflict, Mr Seyed Ahmed Ghazali said that Algeria has always supported the current (?Algerian) mediation efforts within the framework of the OAU.

Foreign Minister in Chad for Talks

LD0502093790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sid Ahmed Ghozali is currently visiting Chad to hold political talks with his counterpart in Ndjamena, the capital. He will also deliver a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Hissein Habre.

Ground Forces Commander Resignation Explained

PM3101091990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jan 90 pp 1-2

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish report: "Algerian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Dispute Over Organization of Army Behind Resignation of One of Its Commanders"]

[Excerpts] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Algerian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Major General Lamine Zeroual may be appointed ambassador within the next few weeks, having resigned as deputy chief of staff and ground forces commander.

The sources said that Maj Gen Zeroual resigned following a sharp dispute between him and Algerian Chief of Staff Khaled Nezzar over the restructuring of the army. The resignation took place over 5 weeks ago, but has still not been officially announced or accepted. It was first reported yesterday by the Algerian newspaper EL MOUDJAHID, which said that President Bendjedid had appointed General Bouhadja deputy chief of staff and ground forces commander.

As for the reason for the dispute, it is Maj Gen Khaled Nezzar's plan to divide the army into small units instead of big divisions, each of which constitutes a complete army with weapons. Zeroual protested that plan, arguing that all modern armies have abandoned such classification since the world war and it is unreasonable for the Algerian Army to restore what prevailed before the world war. Maj Gen Zeroual refused to apply the plan to the ground forces, asking that it be referred to President Chadli Bendjedid—the supreme commander of the Armed Forces—for arbitration.

According to what the sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, President Bendjedid said that the issue needed to be examined, but Zeroual understood that the president was biased toward the chief of staff's viewpoint, so he resigned. [passage omitted]

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that so far Maj Gen Bouhadja is not known to have any political affiliations or sympathy with anyone, and it is not clear whether his appointment carries any political meaning, since he stepped down for the Boumediennists, who made a strong return to the Central Committee at the recent extraordinary National Liberation Front conference. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD0102050690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic. After hearing a report on government activities, the Council of Ministers examined the draft laws on reorganizing the municipalities and the Wilayas in light of the constitutional reforms. The draft law on the municipality which has been adopted bolsters democracy when local authorities exercise power by expanding their authority and clarifying their responsibilities as well as defining the rules of management which will guarantee their independent decisionmaking.

The Council of Ministers then adopted a draft law which modifies and complements the law on elections which was issued on 7 August 1989. The adopted modifications stipulate stringent rules on voting by proxy and the use of a voting system which allows the most representative listed candidates to be elected as local authorities—a matter which guarantees a balanced and democratic function for those authorities. The adopted modifications stipulate more stringent rules for local elections.

The president of the Republic affirmed, in an interjection when the draft laws were being examined, the need to guarantee the best possible representation of popular choices at the level of elected local authorities and to

allow these authorities to be managed in an atmosphere in which calmness and stability prevail and which facilitates continued people's control.

The president of the Republic reaffirmed his great appreciation for the progress which is being achieved daily in introducing democracy in the country's life through the emergence of political formations. He reiterated that the right to practice public freedoms will be guranteed to everyone, without exception, particulary the right of every individual to travel, including those in exile, as long as everyone respects the rules of democracy and the people's free choices. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Criminals' Open Fire on Tourist Bus 4 Feb

8 Dead, 15 Injured

NC0402205190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2036 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that the criminals who intercepted the tourist bus on the Ismailia-Cairo desert road used automatic weapons and four hand grenades in their attack on the bus, which belongs to Santa Maria Tours.

Eight were killed in the attack. Six of them died at the scene of the incident, and the other two died on the way to an Ismailia hospital. Fifteen Israeli tourists were injured; 13 of these were slightly wounded.

The public prosecutor has begun investigating the incident.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility

NC0502094090 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, Feb 5 (AFP)—An Islamic fundamentalist faction active in the occupied territories Monday claimed responsibility for an attack on an Egyptian tour bus that killed eight Israeli tourists and wounded 17.

Islamic Jihad (holy war), in a statement delivered to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE office here, said it "carried out the operation against the Jewish bus near the city of Ismailia, as part of a struggle between us and the Jews that will continue until victory and the crushing of those who dream of a peaceful solution."

Two masked assailants aboard a private car intercepted an Egyptian tour bus carrying Israeli passengers on Sunday evening, hurling grenades and raking the vehicle with automatic weapons fire.

The attack took place on a desert road 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of Cairo, according to the Egyptian Interior Ministry.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for three anti-Israeli attacks in 1989, including one in July on a bus travelling from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem that killed 14 people and injured 27.

An anonymous caller to a Western news agency in the Egyptian capital on Sunday claimed responsibility for the assault in the name of the previously unknown "Organization of the Oppressed in Egyptian Prisons."

Police Seize Attackers' Car

NC0502090490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source has confirmed to MENA that early this morning the security authorities seized the white Peugeot car which the criminals used in the attack on an Israeli tourist bus on the Cairo-Ismailia desert road yesterday.

The source added that some empty cartridges were found inside the car, which are thought to have come from the machineguns used by the criminals to fire on the bus. The source stressed that the security organs are continuing their intensive efforts to apprehend the criminals after obtaining important information about their identities.

Further on Seizure of Car

NC0502102890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source has said that the Peugeot car used by the culprits in the attack on the Israeli tourist bus and seized early this morning carried a Cairo private licence plate with the number 201796.

In a statement to MENA, the source added that a preliminary examination of the car's logbook at traffic headquarters shows that it belongs to an Egyptian national who rents it to tourist companies for use by tourists. He said that the car was seized at the entrance to Shibin al-Qanatir at the beginning of the Cairo-Alexandria road. This proves that, after perpetrating their crime, the culprits drove the car to Bilbays and then used the al-Marj road as far as until Shibin al-Qanatir, where they left the car.

Security organs are continuing their intensive investigations to apprehend the culprits.

'Source' Denies Capture of Suspects

NC0502143090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1409 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source has denied a REUTER report today that the Egyptian security organs have captured 3 persons with forged Saudi passports suspected of having carried out the attack on the Israeli tourist bus yesterday. The source asserted that this report is groundless.

Israeli Plane Evacuates Injured

NC0502091190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—The Israeli Air Force transport plane left Cairo at 1000 today, carrying 17 injured persons and 1 body from among the victims of the tourist bus incident that took place on the Cairo-Ismailia road. Also aboard were some doctors who arrived on the plane last night after the incident happened.

Interior Minister Visits Site

NC0402202790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that a white Peugeot 505 intercepted the tourist bus transporting 31 Israeli tourists who came from Rafah. The car's passengers opened fire on the bus. Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa visited the scene of the incident to follow up on the situation.

Meanwhile, criminal investigation and state security organs continue their investigations to identify the culprits. Security forces have scoured the scene of the incident.

Investigation Opened

NC0502150190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Ismailia, 5 Feb (MENA)—Doctors at Ismailia General Hospital have performed major surgery on seven Israelis injured in the attack on the bus on the Ismailia-Cairo road yesterday. The doctors also performed less complicated operations on another eight injured.

General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, ordered armed forces hospitals to supply additional quantities of blood to meet needs at the Ismailia hospital. Health Minister Dr Raghib Duwaydar amd Ismailia Governor 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Amarah supervised the transfer of the casualties from Ismailia General Hospital to Cairo airport. Also taking part in supervising the transfer were a medical team from the Suez Canal University and specialists from the Ismailia General Hospital under the hospital's general director, Dr Al-Shawadfi al-Balasi.

The public prosecutor's offices in Ismailia and al-Mansurah have opened investigations under Salah 'Abd-al-Sattar, Faruq 'Awad, and Sa'd al-Shuwayh, al-Mansurah and Ismailia public prosecutors, and Zaki al-'Atris, al-Zaqaziq public prosecutor. Fifteen of the injured have been interrogated. They all stated that the attackers were masked and did not speak with an Egyptian accent. They also reported that the attackers stopped the bus, boarded through the front door, fired machine guns and hurled hand grenades, and left through the back door. The prosecution office ordered that autopsies be carried out at the Zaynahum morgue on the two persons who died after arrival at the Ismailia General Hospital. The prosecution also ordered that the documents of the investigation be referred to the al-Mansurah prosecutor's office.

Government Expresses 'Regret'

NC0402222090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2207 GMT 4 Feb 90

["Text" of Statement issued by the Presidential Office]

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its regret over the bestial attack carried out against a number of Israeli tourists on its land tonight. The Arab Republic of Egypt considers this criminal act to have been primarily directed against the efforts aimed at advancing the peace process in the region and at ensuring stability and security for all the region's peoples.

While condemning this treacherous attack, the Arab Republic of Egypt reiterates its desire to safeguard the security of all citizens and foreigners on its land and its determination to continue the peace process in the region.

Interior Ministry Issues Statement

NC0402221390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry in Cairo on 4 February]

[Text] At 1730 today, a Santa Maria Tourism Company bus was transporting 31 Israeli tourists from the Rafah border terminal to Cairo via the Ismailia-Cairo desert highway when a white Peugeot 505 intercepted the bus at the 62-km marker, north of Cairo. Two people, who spoke a dialect other than the Egyptian one, got out of the car and opened fire at the bus passengers with two automatic weapons. One of them hurled four hand grenades at the bus; two of the grenades exploded. The two then fled.

The incident left eight people, including three women, dead. Seventeen others, including an Egyptian representing Safaja Tours Company, which organized the tour, were wounded. The dead and wounded were removed to the Ismailia hospital and to the Heliopolis hospital in Cairo.

Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and the ministry's senior officials visited the scene of the incident to begin investigating.

The Interior Ministry expresses its extreme regret over this brutal incident which left innocent people dead and wounded. It affirms that it will not hesitate to take all measures necessary to confront any attempt which intends to disrupt security and stability and to endanger the safety of citizens and foreigners.

Mubarak Phones Shamir

NC0402224390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight. During the call, Pres Mubarak conveyed his condolences to the families of the Israeli victims who fell during the regrettable incident which took place on the Ismailia-Cairo road tonight.

During the telephone conversation, Pres Mubarak affirmed that incidents like this should never obstruct the peace process. They should instead constitute an incentive to forge ahead with the peace process and to reach a final solution [hall niha'i] for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East problem so that we can avert acts of violence in the area.

Pres Mubarak also stressed that searches are being conducted to arrest the criminals and to refer them to justice.

Palestinian Envoy on Shamir's Reaction

NC0502110690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo, has emphasized the PLO's respect for Egypt's security and sovereignty. As a matter of principle and strategy, he said, the PLO is opposed to any infringement on Egypt's security and sovereignty.

In a statement to MENA following the attack on Israeli tourists, Kamal said that the PLO is fully committed to the Cairo declaration on the denunciation of terrorism which was issued in November 1985. This commitment remains unchanged, he said, despite the casualties inflicted upon the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. Kamal said that the PLO will issue a statement in this respect after learning more about the incident in question.

The Palestinian official said that there is a possibility that the extremist Likud grouping will use the attack on Israeli tourists to defend its policies of annexation, control, and expansion, and reject peace calls, including that for holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

Kamal pointed out that extremists in the Arab ranks and in Israel have certain tactics in common. Neither, he said, take much notice of the urgent need for Israel to come to terms with peace. Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remark that hatred for Israel is running wild in the Arab world, Kamal said that it is Shamir's duty to learn the reasons for this hatred and tackle them with reason and prudence and not with threats and strong words.

'Abd-al-Majid Condemns Incident

NC0502112090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has condemned the tragic incident to which Israeli tourists were subjected yesterday. He said: The response of President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government is very clear. He stressed that every possible effort will be made to find the perpetrators of the incident.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said: We feel that this incident was an attempt to place obstacles before the peace process, which is proceeding with relative success. He pointed out that there are prospects of reaching positive results regarding peace.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the incident will not become an obstacle on the road to peace, adding that Egypt is determined to pursue the path of peace because this is the only one that can lead to stability in the region.

Egypt will remain committed to peace, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said, expressing the hope that other parties will join our endeavors in the search for peace. While it is fully aware of existing difficulties, Egypt truly desires to achieve positive results, he said.

'Abd-al-Majid concluded his statement by saying that the recent event was a challenge to the peace process. However, we are ready to confront this challenge with the increased resolve to work for peace and stability in the Middle East, he asserted.

Butrus Ghali Comments

JN0502124090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1104 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Umar Zaydani carried within the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Good evening Dr Butrus Ghali.

[Ghali] You are welcome.

[Zaydani] We would like to hear your comment on the attack on the Israeli tourists near Cairo.

[Ghali] At the outset, I would like to express condolences to the families of the Israeli victims who were killed yesterday during this regrettable incident that took place on the Ismailia-Cairo highway. I want to stress that we condemn this incident and this attack. This incident should not be allowed to hamper the peace process. On the contrary, it should serve as a fresh incentive to continue work for peace, and to find a final solution to the Arab-Israeli confrontation, the Middle East problem, and the Palestinian people's question.

[Zaydani] Dr Butrus Ghali, to your knowledge, has the party that carried out this incident been identified?

[Ghali] No details are available at the moment. We are awaiting reports from the Ministry of Interior, which is dealing very seriously with the incident. We sincerely hope that the Ministry of Interior and the security organs will be able to provide us, within the next days, with a detailed report on the circumstances of the incident and the persons behind it.

[Zaydani] Dr Butrus Ghali, here in Israel they talk about the need to safeguard the thousands of Israeli tourists who visit Egypt. Is this possible?

[Ghali] Actually, we must say that over the past 10 years many thousands of Israeli tourists visited Egypt, Aswan, and Luxor. No incidents took place. On the contrary, they were warmly welcomed. We hope this regrettable incident is an exception to the rule that has been entrenched over the past 10 years.

[Zaydani] Dr Burtus Ghali, do you believe this incident will affect relations between Egypt and Israel?

[Ghali] We hope it will not affect bilateral relations. Moreover, as I said, this incident should not impede the peace process.

[Zaydani] According to the reports we have received, all Egyptian circles have been greatly shocked by this incident. Do you believe the incident will constitute a turning point?

[Ghali] As I said, this is a regrettable incident. We hope the peace process will continue, and that this incident will not be a new obstacle to the aspired peace.

[Zaydani] Many thanks, Dr Butrus Ghali.

[Ghali] Thank you.

MENA Reports Tripartite Meeting Likely in Feb

NC0302173490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt made intensive contacts with the United States over the past few days to propel the Middle East peace process and to prepare for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state plan to meet before the talks take place.

During these contacts, Egypt presented an Egyptian-Palestinian idea, including the Egyptian-Palestinian point of view. This was after Egypt had intensively consulted with the Palestinians. Egypt conveyed this point of view to Secretary of State James Baker, who conveyed it to the Israelis. In light of contacts already made with all the parties, a tripartite meeting will probably be held in a European capital, most likely Geneva, at the end of Baker's visit to Moscow on 10 February.

MENA has also learned that Egypt, during its contacts with the U.S. secretary of state, made it clear that it is ready to attend the tripartite meeting and explained that it knows its stand and the points that will be discussed during the meeting. It also explained that its goal is to propel the peace process. Egypt believes that beginning a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is an important step for achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

It has been learned that the Egyptian-Palestinian point of view presented to the United States is specific and clear. It confirms the Palestinians' legitimate rights and shows that Egypt believes the PLO has succeeded in winning full international support, thanks to the PLO's recent positive stands.

Date, Venue of Meeting Not Fixed

JN0402132090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Dear listeners, there are conflicting reports from various different sources regarding the date for holding the tripartite meeting involving the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state which will pave the way for launching the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Amidst these conflicting reports, Cairo has affirmed that no venue or date has been fixed for the meeting. Cairo said, however, that there is still a likelihood of holding this meeting. This was confirmed by an Egyptian source to our correspondent in Cairo today. Let us hear the details from Cairo.

[Begin recording] A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry affirmed to Jordan radio today that Egypt has so far not received an invitation to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state. The source added that the venue and date for this meeting have not been fixed. The source stressed that as a result of the contacts made by Egypt during the past few days, the likelihood of holding the meeting still exists. The source added that Egypt is ready to attend this meeting, considering that it has already coordinated its acceptance to attend this meeting with the Palestinian leadership. The source went on to say that there is also a possibility that this tripartite meeting wil! be held within a week to 10 days. However, the source emphasized that this is merely a possibility.

The responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry indicated that during the next few days the U.S. secretary of state has engagements with Soviet officials, not to mention Israeli circumstances concerning the Likud meetings that will be held in Israel under the chairmanship of the Israeli prime minister. The source affirmed that Egypt is ready to attend this meeting at the proper time. It added: Israel agreed in principle to attend this meeting through its acceptance of the 5-point plan drawn up in this regard by the U.S. secretary of state—the plan which provides for the holding of such a meeting.

It was reported here today that Egypt and the United States agree that the meeting must be held soon. However, Israel's acceptance of the meeting remains to be announced. State-owned Egyptian newspapers said today that Egypt spelled out, through its intensive contacts with the U.S. during the past few days, its stand which was coordinated with the Palestinian leadership vis-a-vis the issues under discussion, with the aim of launching the peace process by holding the tripartite meeting and the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, considering that this dialogue is an important and essential starting point for achieving peace. These papers also said that Egypt affirmed that the Egyptian conception calls for securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. They added that the United States relayed this conception to Israel.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid earlier affirmed that the aim of the tripartite meeting is to see it followed by the launching of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. He indicated that holding this meeting will be useless if it were to be judged as a failure from the beginning. [end recording]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Somali President's Envoy

LD0302165590 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Commodore Sa'id al-Abdallah 'Umar, deputy commander in chief, Somali Navy commander, and personal envoy of President Mohamed Siad Barre, who handed him a message from President Siad Barre.

Tunisian Defense Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD0402203490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Feb (JANA)—Brother Abdallah Kallel, the defense minister in sisterly Tunisia, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was greeted at Tripoli International Airport by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, a number of officers [representing the people] people in arms and the general delegate [as received] of sisterly Tunisia to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Tunisian Defense Minister made a statement to JANA in which he indicated this visit falls in the framework of the exchange of contacts and consultations between the brother leader of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali with a view to consolidation and developing the unionist moves between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0402203590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1902 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Feb JANA—The brother leader of the revolution today received brother Abdallah Kallel, the defense minister in sister Tunisia and personal envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Mauritania

Government Reshuffled; Interior Minister Dropped

AB0402170590 Paris AFP in French 1608 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 4 Feb (AFP)—The Mauritanian Government was reshuffled today, it was learned from an official source in the Mauritanian capital. The major outcome of this reshuffle is the dropping of Interior Minister Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, long considered the country's strong man. He had been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidiya, minister of fisheries and maritime economy. The Ministry of Fisheries has been taken over by former industry minister Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou. The Ministry of Industry and Mines has been taken over by former justice minister Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine, who has been replaced at his post by former commerce minister Hamdi Samba Diop. The Ministry of Commerce, Crafts, and Tourism has been taken over by Mrs Khadijettou Mint Ahmed [name as received], formerly at the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which will henceforth be under the chairmanship of the military committee.

More on Cabinet Reshuffle

LD0402233990 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The leadership of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] announced that according to a presidential decree issued today:

Hamdi Samba Diop has been appointed minister of justice;

Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya has been appointed minister of interior, post and telecommunications;

Ahmed Ould Sidi ould khalifa has been appointed minister of fisheries and maritime economy;

Mrs Khadija Mint Ahmed Abderrahmane has been appointed minister of commerce, handicrafts and tourism;

Cheikh Mohamed Salim Ould Mohamed Lamine has been appointed minister of mines and industry;

Lieutenant Colonel Dieng Oumar Harouna has been appointed minister of equipment and transportation.

It has also been decided to annex the Women's Affairs Ministry to the CMSN Permanent Secretariat.

Malian Minister Arrives 31 Jan; Makes Statement

AB0102091090 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] N'golo Traore, the Malian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Nouakchott yesterday. He was welcomed on arrival by Hasni Ould Didi, the minister of national education, acting for the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. In a statement to the national press, the Malian minister said his visit is in line with the fraternal relations existing between our two countries. He stated that he brought a message from President Moussa Traore to his brother and friend, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state.

Meets With President Taya

LD0202151490 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Colonel Mouaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, today received N'golo Traore, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation and special envoy of Malian President Moussa Traore. Following the audience, the Malian foreign minister stated that he had conveyed a message dealing with the two countries' good cooperation. The Malian foreign minister praised the level of cooperation between the two countries, and asserted that the joint committee for coopration, which met in Nouakchott 2 months ago, had taken the necessary measures to bolster and expand this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government Ready To Hold Talks Under Mubarak

EA0202184290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the national dialogue conference delegation to West European countries, (?yesterday) stressed to journalists the government's readiness to hold another round of talks with the rebel movement [word indistinct] under the auspices of the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, in an attempt to end the ongoing war in the south of the country. His excellency added that the venue for the talks would be fixed by President Mubarak.

Minister Seeks Arab Summit on Israeli 'Threat'

EA0302214490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 February (SUNA)—The foreign minister, Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has called for an extraordinary Arab summit conference to discuss the Israeli security threat to the Red Sea. The minister said, in an interview with AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published today, that the Israeli designs were aimed at the whole Arab region and not just the Red Sea states. He added that the Israeli presence in the Horn of Africa region posed a threat to the African and Arab countries through Sudan. (?He denied) what has been reported by some world news media that Sudan might submit a protest to the OAU on the Israeli presence in Ethiopia.

Foreign Ministry Denies Call

EA0302214890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 February (SUNA)—In a statement issued today, the Foreign Ministry has denied the report appearing in AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH concerning the call by the foreign minister for an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the security threats facing the Red Sea.

The statement said that the Foreign Ministry wished to deny that this call had been issued by the minister, who had stressed Sudan's interest [word indistinct] the security of the Red Sea and its ceaseless efforts over a long period of time, and through consultation and cooperation with the states of the region, to make the Red Sea an area of peace and amity.

The statement went on to say that with regard to the convening of an Arab Summit conference, Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul had pointed out that such a conference is premature. There was also no formula [words indistinct].

It is worth mentioning that SUNA today transmitted a report in this connection quoting AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH.

Government Bars Juba Relief Flight

EA0302211490 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 2 (AFP)—Sudan's military junta on Thursday refused to let a plane carrying food relief land at the rebel-besieged chief southern town of Juba, Lutheran World Federation [LWF] official Eric Watts said here Friday.

The transport plane, a Hercules C-130, was told to turn back when it reached the border, he said. No reason was given.

The LWF has been making daily flights from Kenya to Juba for several months, taking in food for the 300,000 population, 200,000 of whom were refugees from fighting between government troops and the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA].

The SPLA has warned a major attack on Juba is imminent. It killed 16 people there in an artillery barrage early last month.

Mr. Watts said the LWF was hoping to make three flights on Friday. Taking in 65 tonnes of maize. [sentence as received] In the period December 20 to January 3 it ferried in several dozen tonnes to Juba, where the food supply situation is said to be catastrophic.

Officials Speak With Garang Representative in UK

PM3101092590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jan 90 pp 1-2

[By 'Uthman Mirghani]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Sudanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that two Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council members arrived in London 4 days ago on an unannounced visit to hold talks with figures from south Sudan on the escalation in the ongoing battles there and current endeavors to hold a new round of negotiations in Cairo between the Sudanese Government and the Garang movement.

The sources said that Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, in charge of the security committee in the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and Colonel Martin Mulwal Arap arrived suddenly in the British capital last Thursday [25 January] and held protracted talks with Francis Deng, former Sudanese ambassador in Washington, who is regarded as a Garang movement sympathizer.

The sources added that Francis Deng had arrived from the United States and held talks with Col Salih and Col Arap in the house of Sudanese Ambassador to Britain al-Rashid Abu-Shamah. [passage omitted]

The sources emphasized that the RCC members' visit and the talks which they have held so far indicate that their mission concerns the war problem in south Sudan, especially in view of the strong escalation in the battles there and the reports that the Garang movement is massing its forces with a view to launching a major offensive on Juba, capital of south Sudan. Furthermore, the Sudanese Government is holding contacts with several quarters to arrange for the holding of a 3d round of negotiations (after the Addis Ababa and Nairobi negotiations) in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Equatoria Governor 'Satisfied' With Juba Defense

EA2901194090 Khartoum SUNA in French 1538 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 January (SUNA)—Major General Allison Magaya, military governor of Equatoria Province in southern Sudan, has placed the responsibility for the violation of the cease-fire and for the intensification of fighting in the region with the rebel movement of John Garang.

Maj Gen Magaya said he was satisfied with the security measures and means of defence of the town of Juba, "capital of Equatoria", and with the general mobilization during the recent attack launched by the rebels against the town.

Furthermore, the Equatoria governor exhorted wildlife protection forces to cooperate closely with the armed forces and other regular forces in the province.

Kurdufan Rebel Activity 'Completely Diminished'

EA2801171490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 January (SUNA)—Major General Awad-Allah Muhammad al-Fatih Busharah, governor of Kurdufan region, has given an assurance that the activity of the outlaws in the region has completely diminished and that the citizens of Kurdufan stand united against the objectives of the rebels.

Maj Gen al-Fatih told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper that the Armed Forces and the other regular forces had safeguarded the situation, and that the rebels no longer posed a (?threat). His Excellency added that the rebel movement aimed to attack civilians so as to disrupt the social structure [word indistinct] and sow discord among them, so that the conflict acquires a tribalistic dimension. However, the citizen masses are working in full solidarity against the aggressive designs of the rebel movement aimed against Sudan and her people.

Foreign Minister Meets New Zaire Envoy

EA3001215890 Khartoun SUNA in French 1524 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum 29 Jan (SUNA)—On Monday morning, Mr Ali Ahmad Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs, received the credentials of the new Zairean ambassador to Sudan, with a view to handing them to General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC.

During his talks with the new Zairean ambassador in Khartoum, Mr Sahlul examined bilateral relations and the outcome of the Sudan-Zaire joint commission meeting held recently in Kinshasa. He also informed the Zairean diplomat of the efforts made by the Sudanese Government to restore peace and stability to the country.

Tunisian Envoy Arrives With Message for Al-Bashir

EA2701084990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Hamouda Ben Slama, minister of youth and childhood, and the envoy of the Tunisian President, arrived in Khartoum at noon today. He stated to the radio reporter that he was carrying a letter to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council] chairman, from his brother, President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, of the Republic of Tunisia. The minister expressed the appreciation of the Tunisian leadership and people for the efforts being made by the National

Salvation Revolution in the Sudan to achieve peace and unity in the country, strengthen Arab ranks, and bring to the attention of the Arab masses important issues regarding a unified Arab homeland.

The Tunisian envoy was received by Abdullah Deng Niyal, minister of orientation and guidance, and Dr Hasan Abu Jabal, under secretary for sports and youth.

SUNA Chiefs Meet Turkish, Pakistani Officials

EA3101185190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan (SUNA)—SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) general manager Muhammed Khawjali al-Salihin, met at his office here yesterday with the third secretary at the Turkish Embassy to Sudan Mr Akif Octag. Al-Salihin discussed with the Turkish diplomat the progress of bilateral media cooperation between Sudan and Turkey, especially in the field of flow of information.

Meanwhile, SUNA deputy general manager Abu Bakr Waziri same day met at his office with spokesman for the UN's office for relief Miss Pat Banks. The meeting discussed spheres of cooperation between the office and SUNA. Miss Banks had a tour of the agency's technical sections where she was briefed on the progress of work.

The deputy general manager also met with the Pakistani charge d'affaires here Akhtar Malik, and discussed aspects of cooperation as well as [words indistinct] providing training opportunities in Pakistani media institutions.

On the other hand, Sudan's ambassador to Kenya Dr Abd-al-Hamid Abd-al-Latif, hailed the cooperation and performance of SUNA's office in Nairobi.

Defense Minister Sees Turkish Envoy

EA2301155690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA)—Defence State Minister Maj Gen (rtd) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan met at his office at the General Command yesterday with the Turkish ambassador to Khartoum. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways and means for promoting them further.

Al-Bashir on CAR Ties, Chad Opposition

EA2501215290 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The president of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, announced that the Sudan is exerting serious endeavors to reestablish diplomatic relations with the Central African Republic. He said contacts in this regard have gone way ahead, expressing hope that the problems facing the relations between the two countries would be solved. He said the [word indistinct] of the relations comes as a results of bad partisan politics, and that the Sudan endeavors to improve her relations with the neighboring countries. He also said the revolution will put an end to [word indistinct] in western Sudan.

Gen 'Umar al-Bashir also said contacts are going on to solve the issue of Chadian opposition presence in Darfur through reconciliation between the Chadian Government and opposition as it is (?the only way) to solve security problems in the region.

Tunisia

Chedli Klibi, Tarasov View Soviet Jew Emigration

LD0202173390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, discussed today with Mr Tarasov, Soviet deputy foreign minister for Middle East Affairs, the emigration of Soviet Jews and the appropriate ways of dealing with this problem within the framework of traditional Arab-Soviet cooperation and friendly relations.

Chedli Klibi explained to the Soviet official the reasons for the increased Arab worry and concern over the increasingly intensive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel. This could herald a historical catastrophe that would have similar implications to the disaster of 1948 if the necessary measures to avoid the forced emigration to Israel are not taken.

The Arab League secretary general also explained to the Soviet official the desire of Arab countries to protect and bolster the existing friendly relations between the Arab world and the Soviet Union so that Israel would not be able to obstruct these relations through its hostile schemes aimed at destituting the Palestinian people and deporting them from the occupied territories and to settle Soviet Jews in their place, thus exploiting the period of the democratic openness and development currently witnessed by the Soviet Union.

Foreign Ministry Comments

LD0102023290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] We begin our foreign news with the Tunisian Foreign Ministry's statement on the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. The following is the text of the statement:

At a time when the international community is exerting efforts to reach a just, peaceful, and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, which will guarantee the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and provide peace and security for the peoples of the region, Israel has surprised us with provocative statements which

affirm its aggressive intentions, expansionist plans, and attempts to thwart the peaceful efforts aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The Tunisian Government, while vehemently condemning Israel's statements and stances which challenge international resolutions and norms and take advantage of the relaxation in international relations to sneak through its plans and carry out its premeditated intentions, calls on the superpowers, international organizations, and world public opinion to shoulder their responsibilities, stand up to Israeli practices, and give weight to the movement for a just peace in the Middle East region.

The Tunisian Government, which has always expressed its appreciation for the principled and firm stance of the Soviet Union toward the Palestinian problem, urges it to stand fast against all Israeli maneuvers aimed at attracting Soviet citizens and involving them in its expansionist plans which are detrimental to the native inhabitants.

Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Ben Ali

LD0102212490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a verbal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which was conveyed by Mr Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research and envoy of the leader of the Libyan revolution, to the head of state.

After the meeting, Mr Ahmad Ibrahim stated that the message concerned the developing bilateral relations and also the natural disaster in the south and center of Tunisia. In this context, he pointed out that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent him to inquire about the Tunisian needs following this disaster.

Saudi Arabia

Thai Ambassador Summoned Over Murder of Diplomats

LD0202190290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Feb. (SPA)—Following the statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday evening on the criminal aggression which led to the martyrdom of three Saudi diplomats who worked at the Bangkok Embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques, a Foreign Ministry spokesman answered a question from SPA, saying:

The Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand yesterday, and informed him of the Kingdom's regret and deep sorrow regarding the treacherous aggression which cost the lives of the three diplomats who worked at the Bangkok Embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The Foreign Ministry asked the Thai ambassador to inform his government, that regarding the repetition of acts of criminal aggression against diplomats of the Kingdom's embassy in Bangkok, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes as long as the criminal murderers are not arrested, and as long as the background of this terrorist action and those behind it are not known by the competent authorities in the government of Thailand, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sees no benefit to be gained from Saudi personnel remaining in Thailand without protection or safety.

Newspapers Comment on Bangkok Diplomat Killings

LD0402104890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0535 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh 4 Feb (SPA)—[passage omitted] Today's Saudi papers comment on the assassination of the three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok last Thursday [1 February], pointing out that some news agencies' conjectures on the reasons behind the martyrdom of the diplomats are merely and purely personal interpretations which have no grounds whatsoever and asserting the act was cleary a terrorist one in its aspect, reasons, and justifications.

The papers reported the European Council's statement accusing Iran of terrorism and its call for the expulsion of Iran from the UN.

AL-RIYAD says: news agencies have tried to find explanations for the reasons behind the criminal assassiantion of the Saudi diplomats and its motives; they could find nothing but speculative interpretations, which are of no help here because terrorism has no justification nor any other motives than terrorism itself.

It added: It is rather a strange and a sad irony to find among those speculative interpretations a suggestion of a possible personal motives of some [Thai] workers who were denied work permits in the Kingdom. The paper went on to say: Let us suppose, just for the sake of argument, as a news agency asserted, "the problem was about visas and work permits." Is such a problem not part of the diplomatic mission's work? Are the victims of the bloody terrorism act not members of the diplomatic corps, which is exchanged between the two countries and should be totally protected according to international law? What, moreover, has a telex operator to do with a problem such as this?

It stressed the matter is much deeper than the attempt to frame it with this shortsightedness. The crime is much bigger than the attempt to hide it behind any other reason; it clearly was a terrorist act in its aspect, reasons, and justifcations. The paper urged the Thai Government to shoulder full responsibilities, apprehend the terrorists, and uncover, courageously and firmly, those who were behind such an ugly crime to regain some credibility to its security arrangement for the diplomatic corps. That is, if it genuinely desires to continue diplomatic ties and respect the tradition of hospitality for diplomats.

Under the title "Iran is swimming against the tide" AL-JAZIRAH said: The world, East and West, is unanimous in rejecting terrorism with all its forms and causes [word indistinct] the language of the jungle and the law of cowards. We know, however, that the (?rulers) of the Tehran regime have practiced those base acts overtly and covertly during the Khomeyni era and after it, whereby his successors persist in going against the tide, proud of leading a path which had been excluded from among the choices of the civilized world, and was condemned as well as its perpetrators. The newspaper pointed to the fact the European Council called for the expulsion of Iran from membership in the United Nations, and [the European Council] stressed it uses terrorism as a form of foreign policy, besides the collective execution campaigns inside Iran which have claimed more than 90,000 people since Khomeyni's death, in addition to 150,000 political prisoners.

The newspaper further said: When the representatives of the European peoples unanimously agree it is not worth hoping a moderate line will appear among the ranks of the Tehran leaders, then this is a new document which wraps up [as received] the black record of a regime which insists on remaining isolated on the international level, and internally and externally derides itself.

The newspaper stressed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is in a distinguished position of respect and accountability among the states of the whole world, does not want to enter into bickerings whose aim is well known. It voices, however, its condemnation of every terrorist act, out of its Islamic principles, morals, and its firm path, which made it an exemplary model of a civilized society. [passage omitted]

AL-MADINAH indicated Iran ignored all the international conventions and agreements, as much as it ignored human rights when it killed more than 90,000 Iranian citizens since the death of Khomeyni.

The newspaper said Iran is the one which practiced terrorism in more than one place in the world, and besides executions, abductions, hijackings, and bombings in scientific institutions, it ignored human rights, and the most basic principles of international relations. It infiltrated through its terrorist networks, and through the mobilization of large numbers of mercenaries and vagabonds to spread anarchy, tension, and fear in more than one place in the world. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Jewish 'Exodus' to Israel

LD0302165190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] London, 3 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin-Abd-al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, has drawn attention to the seriousness of the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel. His highness has urged a united Arab stance to confront such a danger.

He added in an interview with the London-based 'AL-HAYAT' magazine, which was published today, "Israel intends to use this new exodus to expel Arab inhabitants from occupied territories and set up more settlements to accommodate such huge numbers." His highness pointed out such an aggressive act requires a united Arab stance to assert the seriousness of the emigration and its bad repercussions on peace plans.

His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-al-Aziz dealt with the Palestinian intifadah and its consequences saying: Israel cannot bear any hurtful blows from any Palestinian, whether inside or outside [the occupied territories] nor can it continue its obstinacy toward Arab countries and international public opinion in its occupation of Arab territories. He added, Arab countries should show patience and courage; they also should assert their just rights and defend them against the usurping enemy, pointing out history shows rights will not be lost if they are defended.

His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-al-Aziz dealt with the developments being witnessed in the world today, saying: "One should follow such developments and be interested in their political, economic, and security effects on Islamic and Arab countries, as well as their repercussions on the international scene in general." His highness pointedly asserted the need and importance of following up such developments, pointing out world Zionism has, from the outset, been active in order to contain those developments and use them to Israel's advantage.

United Arab Emirates

Cabinet Calls on USSR To Stop Emigration

JN0502105690 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Feb 90

["Text" of statement issued by the Council of Ministers in the United Arab Emirates, UAE, on 5 February]

[Text] The UAE Council of Ministers is following with deep concern the continued immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, a matter considered an entrenchment of the Israeli settlement policy and a plan to annex the occupied Palestinian territory into the Zionist entity.

The Council believes continuation of the immigration will increase the intransigence of the Zionist entity's government, which continues to disregard the Palestinian people's right to return to their territory and establish their independent state and which practices daily brutal repression against the sons of the intifadah, ignoring the will of the international community and all international charters and norms.

The UAE Council of Ministers urges the concerned parties, particularly the USSR, which is linked with the Arab countries and peoples through ties of cooperation, friendship, and mutual interests, to adopt measures and pressures required by this serious situation to stop the Soviet Jewish immigration, as it constitutes a blatant encroachment on the Palestinian people's rights and an obstruction to the settlement efforts aimed at achieving a just, comprehensive peace and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Further Reportage on SFRY Minister's Visit

Meets With Oil Minister

JN0102155290 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—Mr 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim minister of oil met here today Mr Bozidar Marendic [name as received] Yugoslav Federal Secretary for development head of Yugoslav-Iraqi joint committee.

During the meeting, means of enhancing economic and oil relations between both countries were discussed.

Confers With Hammadi

JN0102155590 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—Member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi received today the Yugoslav secretary for development Bozidar Marendic [name as received] and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting attended by Mr Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the minister of trade, Iraqi-Yugoslavian relations in economic fields and means of consolidating them were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the Yugoslav ambassador to Iraq.

Meets Ramadan, Reviews Relations

JN0102155890 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan met here today visiting Yugoslav Planning and Development Minister Bozidar Marendic [name as received].

During the meeting, Mr Ramadan expressed satisfaction over bilateral developed relations stressing joint keenness to seek new fields that would contribute to strengthening and expanding bilateral ties.

The Yugoslav official praised Iraq's current boom pointing to Yugoslavian companies' readiness to expand their works and implement new development projects in Iraq.

Committee Signs Minutes

JN0502060290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—Iraq and Yugoslavia signed joint minutes today at the conclusion of the 14th session of the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The minutes were signed for Iraq by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and head of the Iraqi delegation, and by Bosko Marendic, Yugoslav minister of development and planning [name, title as received], head of the Yugoslav side.

The two ministers exchanged cordial speeches in which they expressed the desire of the two countries to continue to develop cooperation.

The minutes stipulate Iraq and Yugoslavia will expand the volume of trade exchange according to the lists of commodities including products of both countries.

The minutes also provide for developing and expanding economic cooperation through implementation of industrial, electrical, agricultural, housing, and construction projects.

The minutes also provide for training, exchanging technical expertise, and expanding the two countries' participation in international fairs conducted in both countries.

The two sides agreed to convene the 15th session of the joint committee in Belgrade at the beginning of next year.

Departs With Delegation 5 Feb

JN0502091590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Bosko Marendic, Yugoslav minister of development and planning [name, title as received], and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today after a visit lasting several days. [passage omitted]

Iraqi-Romanian Committee Signs Economic Accord

JN0102205290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Iraq and Romania today signed an agreement for economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Romanian Committee, signed the agreement for Iraq, and Victor Stanculescu, minister of national economy and head of the Romanian side to the meetings, signed for Romania.

The agreement provides for organizing economic relations, exchanging commodities, and facilitating implementation of projects in Iraq by Romanian companies.

The agreement came at the end of the Joint Iraqi-Romanian Committee's three days of meetings.

Romanian Minister Departs

JN0202120490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy, and his delegation left Baghdad today after several days in Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Stanculescu said his visit to Iraq was very important, and he had the honor to meet with President Saddam Husayn and listen to his sound policy on improving relations between Iraq and Romania. He added he had meetings with Iraqi officials on strengthening economic, trade, and technical cooperation in ways that would benefit the two friendly peoples.

Omani Foreign Minister Arrives 3 Feb

JN0302130490 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad. Feb 3, INA—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah arrived in Baghdad this morning heading a delegation on a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Omani minister said President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative on Jan 5 was a positive step towards achieving peace between Iraq and Iran and ending the sufferings of the prisoners of Iraq-Iran war.

During his stay, the Omani official will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN0302201190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who is visiting Iraq.

They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Arab arena, the Palest'ne question, and the Lebanese situation. They also reviewed a number of Arab and international issues of mutual interest. The head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, the head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department, and the Omani ambassador in Baghdad, attended.

Meets With Saddam

JN0402163690 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 4, INA—President Saddam Husayn received in audience today visiting Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin-'Alawi bin-'Abdullah.

During the audience, President Husayn received a verbal message from Sultan Qabus bin-Sa'id on bilateral ties, current Arab situation and latest developments of the Iraq-Iran negotiations to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Present at the audience were Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Oman's ambassador in Baghdad.

Beirut Weekly Claims Cicippio Dead of 'Illnesses'

TA0302175490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] A Beirut weekly, which expresses positions held by the Amal organization, today reports U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio has died in captivity.

The newspaper, AL-HAWAZIB, says Cicippio died recently after suffering various illnesses.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes Cicippio was kidnapped by the Hizballah and held by the organization called the Oppressed of the Earth. After Shaykh 'Ubayd was kidnapped by the Israel Defense Forces, the organization threatened to execute him.

Israeli Bus Passengers Attacked Near Ismailia

Casualties Reported

TA0402181090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] A preliminary report from Ismailia, Egypt, says a terrorist attack was carried out against an Israeli bus.

It appears there were casualties. No other details are available at the moment.

Egyptian Envoy Confirms Attack

NC0402190690 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 4 (AFP)—Armed assailants opened fire on an Egyptian bus Sunday, causing casualties among Israeli passengers, Voice of Israel radio reported here.

Unconfirmed reports from informed sources said about 10 Israelis died in the attack, which occurred in Ismailia in northeast Egypt.

Egyptian ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni confirmed the attack and said several Israeli tourists had been hit by automatic weapon fire.

The bus had been travelling between Rafah, on the demarcation line separating Egypt and the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, and Cairo, the radio said.

Light Weapons, Grenades Used

TA0402192990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Initial reports just received in Jerusalem state an attack unidentified individuals attacked a bus carrying Israeli tourists believed to be from the Ofaqim company.

The incident occurred some 60 km east of Cairo. The reports say the squad members attacked the bus with light weapons and grenades, and there were numerous casualties. The attack is believed to have occurred at 1730 tonight.

According to an eyewitness, some of the casualties were taken to Heliopolis Hospital in Cairo. At this time, staffers from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo are driving to the site of the incident and to the hospital.

At the request of the Foreign Ministry, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has a special passenger plane ready to take off, as soon as more details are known, to bring the wounded to Israel.

[Later in the program, moderator Daniyel Pe'er reports Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Cairo, said in an interview: "Professor Shamir said there are reports of fatalities, but he has no solid facts about this. He knows of four casualties with moderate injuries and four with slight injuries, who are hospitalized at Heliopolis Hospital in Cairo. He added when the bus carrying Israeli tourists was 50 to 60 km east of Cairo, a private car overtook it and its passengers fired at the bus. It is possible they also boarded the bus and threw grenades at it."]

Shamir Reaction Detailed

TA0402203190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2005 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderator Daniyel Pe'er—live]

[Text] [Pe'er] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is on the line. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Pe'er] Sir, do you have updated information about the attack in Egypt?

[Shamir] Well, I have various details, but they have not been confirmed yet. We heard there were nine wounded. We also were told there were fatalities, but we do not know yet the precise number.

[Pe'er] Could you tell us your reaction to the event?

[Shamir] I can say this murderous attack against Israeli tourists in the heart of Egypt is a most grave, shocking event. Citizens of the State of Israel now are very concerned and shocked. This attack proves hostility toward Israel still is alive and running wild in the area. We hope the Egyptian authorities will take all necessary measures to uncover and punish the killers and to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

[Pe'er] Mr Prime Minister, can this terrorist attack have political repercussions on the peace process?

[Shamir] We are awaiting more information, and our first concern is for the people who were on that bus. I cannot at this moment talk of any other facet of the event.

[Pe'er] Is the same true regarding any possible repercussions of the attack on the Likud Central Committee convention?

[Shamir] As I said, I am not thinking about these things at the moment. Just now, my concern is for the people who were on that bus. Naturally, when more facts are known, there will be more comment.

[Pe'er] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] You are welcome.

Peres Comments

TA0402210190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2044 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Reacting to the terrorist attack in Cairo, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said: This is a shocking tragedy. Our hearts are with the victims' families, and we pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded.

Israel, added Peres, will carry on its uncompromising war against terrorism. We expect the Government of Egypt to make every effort to trap and punish the people responsible for this abominable crime and to prevent recurrence of such terrorist attacks.

Medical Plane Cleared To Land

TA0402212690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] aircraft carrying a medical team is scheduled to take off for Cairo tonight to bring the casualties from the Ismailia attack to Israel.

The team includes doctors and nurses who will treat the wounded. Also on board will be Brigadier General Hayim Yifrah, commander of the Liaison Unit With Foreign Forces. The Air Force still is waiting for the Egyptian authorities' landing clearance.

Our political correspondent, Arye Golan, reports a short while ago Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid telephoned Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and announced Egypt will allow the Air Force plane to land in Cairo to evacuate the casualties. He also expressed the Egyptian Government's regret at the attack on the bus.

Further on Shamir Reaction

TA0402215890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2115 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Excerpt] [Wilensky] Have you had any messages from Egypt? Will you attempt to get in touch with President Mubarak?

[Shamir] Well, throughout the evening the foreign minister has been in touch with the Egyptian foreign minister, who has furnished us with information.

[Wilensky] This is not the first time a terrorist attack has been carried out against Israelis in Egypt.

[Shamir] It is not the first, but from the point of view of its severity and ruthlessness, it is the worst in the recent period. It was done in broad daylight, and the aim of the murderers is pretty obvious.

[Wilensky] Does this require any change in our relationship with Egypt, as far as you are concerned?

[Shamir] Well, just now I would not like to say anything about political aspects. What we must do is see to the safety of our citizens in Egypt.

[Wilensky] Do you intend to postpone the Likud Central Committee convention?

[Shamir] There is no connection. I see no connection between this grave event and the Central Committee convention.

[Wilensky] Does this mean it will be conducted?

[Shamir] I do not believe there is reason not to conduct it.

[Wilensky] Mr. Shamir, we thank you very much.

[Shamir] You are welcome.

Mubarak Phones Shamir

TA0402224890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2210 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren from the situation room at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak a few minutes ago telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir through the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry's situation room.

He expressed his own shock and that of all Egypt over the disaster which occurred this evening.

The prime minister told President Mubarak all of Israel also is shocked by the disaster. He expressed hope the criminals will be punished.

President Mubarak told Yitzhaq Shamir the tragic event furnishes further proof everything possible should be done for peace. The prime minister replied first of all, everything must be done to prevent terrorist attacks, to attain peace. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Encourages Action

TA0402231790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2210 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Yig'al Goren at the Foreign Ministry situation room in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Goren] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is here with us in the situation room. Good evening to you.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Goren] What information do you have at this time regarding the number of casualties in this disaster?

[Netanyahu] Reports are being received every minute. As you can see, the situation room is working full time. The reports are not final yet, however, and I do not want to announce figures before our information is confirmed.

[Goren] In any event, what initial significance do you, as deputy foreign minister, perceive in this disaster?

[Netanyahu] We still do not know who perpetrated this attack. What we can say with certainty, however, is what these criminals intended: They wanted to murder Israelis; also, they wanted to murder the idea of coexistence between Israelis and Arabs. I do not think they will succeed in this, but it is obvious we must take action to guarantee: A. the safety of Israelis; and B. that this raging terrorism—and it rages not only in Egypt—is eradicated.

[Goren] Does this terrorist activity testify to any change in what we have been accustomed to seeing until today?

[Netanyahu] We have information about previous attempts to hit Israeli targets inside Israeli borders. These attempts usually do not succeed because we manage to abort them. It is possible—this is my own speculation—this was an attempt to harm Israelis outside Israel. The same has happened throughout Israel's history: Whenever Arab terror failed to harm targets inside the country, it turned to Israeli targets outside the country.

Judging by outward signs, what we can say at this time is the attack in Ismailia was a planned, rather than spontaneous, operation. This operation must have required gathering preliminary intelligence data, planning and executing an operation, which—I am sorry to say—was successful.

[Goren] How is this liable to affect the ties between the two countries?

[Netanyahu] I think the event should enhance the mutual understanding which I think already exists, and which I hope now is becoming stronger in Egypt: that the political process cannot be promoted without first eliminating these centers of violence and terror. This attack was not directed uniquely at Israelis; it was aimed against the very idea of Israelis traveling in an Arab country and touring it just like an ordinary person; against the very idea of peace and coexistence. This therefore can be viewed as a comprehensive attack against the State of Israel, Israelis, and the concept of coexistence.

[Goren] Thank you very much, Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

Group Claims Responsibilty

TA0502053290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Late last night a caller telephoned a foreign news agency to say that a group called the Organization for the Defense of the Oppressed in Egypt's Prisons mounted the attack.

He said it had been carried out to teach the Mubarak regime a lesson for launching what he called a campaign of savage torture of the inmates at the (Tora) prison. The caller also said Jews can move freely on Egyptian soil, while Islamic youths are killed without restraint. REUTER news agency says the caller spoke in classical Arabic in an Egyptian accent, and the assumption is that he is a member of one of the Muslim extremist organizations in Egypt.

Ministers, Parties React

TA0502054590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The attack has been roundly condemned across the political spectrum in Israel, but with differences on the implications from left and right.

The Likud and Labor caucuses condemned roundly. Labor caucus Chairman Hayim Ramon said the goal of the attack was to harm relations between Egypt and Israel. Likud caucus head Sara Doron expressed deep sorrow and shock over the attack.

Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat called the attack an evil deed committed by extremist elements trying to ruin chances for peace.

Tehiya Chairman Professor Yuval Ne'eman says the attack is the terrorist organizations' response to the support which, Ne'eman says, the left-wing groups give them.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] General Secretary El'azar Granot expressed his shock over the attack, and added he was confident that the Egyptian authorities would do everything in their power to punish the murderers.

The right-wing Tzomet Party says Egypt cannot deny responsibility for the attack. Tzomet says Egypt has been showing its opposition to Israel through virulent attacks in the press and criticism of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel in an effort to return to the Arab fold.

The Citizens Rights Movement expressed shock over the attack, but emphasized that Egypt is the main force today for peace in the region.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 February adds that in reaction, Minister Ari'el Sharon said "the incident in Egypt shows those who think a change has taken place in the Middle East or that

one may make inferences from what has been happening in Eastern Europe regarding this part of the world are wrong."]

Arens on Attack, Likud Delay

TA0502061290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Einstein] What are the possible ramifications of yesterday's attack on Israeli-Egyptian relations?

[Arens] I hope it will not affect the peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt. We know terrorist organizations also operate in Egypt. This is not the first terrorist attack against Israeli citizens in Egypt. It is, perhaps, the most serious attack so far.

[Einstein] Minister Arens, we heard our ambassador in Cairo is satisfied with the way the Egyptian authorities handled matters after the attack. The question, however, is why there still is no official casualty toll. Are the casualties really being treated in an orderly manner? Do we actually know what happened to each of the passengers on the bus?

[Arens] I received an updated casualty list from the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid around midnight last night. I cannot tell you if things have changed since then. These apparently are the numbers; if there are any changes, I imagine they would be because some of the wounded suffered extremely serious injuries.

[Einstein] Yes. Every once in a while, deadly attacks are carried out against Israelis in Egypt, and Israelis are killed. Would you consider it advisable for Israelis to stay away from Egypt, a country which harbors armed elements hostile to Israel and have plans for action, despite the state of peace between the two countries?

[Arens] I already have pointed out the existence of elements hostile to Israel, much to our sorrow; however, to the best of our knowledge, the Egyptian Government takes all possible measures to prevent them from carrying out their plans. At this tragic moment, when we still are mourning our dead, I would not jump to conclusions regarding Israeli tourism to Egypt.

[Einstein] There is one immediate conclusion the Likud may have to reach. I am referring to Wednesday's [7 February] convention of the Likud Central Committee, in which you serve as chairman of the secretariat. Would you say it would be right to postpone the convention until a better time?

[Arens] I cannot tell you at this time. A meeting of the secretariat will be conducted this morning to discuss it.

[Einstein] What will be your recommendation, Mr Foreign Minister?

[Arens] I will make my recommendations at this morning's meeting.

[Einstein] Thank you, Mr Arens.

9 Said Dead, 20 Wounded

TA0502064290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] One of the Israelis wounded in yesterday's bus attack died at the hospital in Ismailia last night, raising the number of those killed in the incident to nine.

Approximately 20 people were wounded, many seriously, in the attack. [passage omitted]

Shamir: 'Authorities' Responsible

TA0502070190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Me'ir Einstein and Arye Golan—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Mr Shamir, I understand President Mubarak phoned you last night after the attack on the bus. What did he tell you?

[Shamir] Indeed, he phoned me sometime around midnight. He expressed his sorrow over the attack on the Israeli tourists, sent his condolences to the bereaved families, and said he shared in the grief of the Israeli people. He said the peace efforts should be pursued.

[Golan] You probably agreed with him on this point. The question is, Mr Prime Minister, whether in your opinion Egypt is doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the numerous Israeli tourists who visit that country?

[Shamir] I told him to have peace, we first must eliminate terror and violence in this region. I also told him we all were deeply shocked, and the Israeli people this morning are grieving. I do not think this is the right time for taking stock, but we will do so within the next few days. A crime of this nature, involving the loss of so many human lives, certainly does not add to the current climate of relations between the peoples in this region.

[Einstein] Could this hinder the peace process, Mr. Shamir?

[Shamir] I am not sure of the extent to which such a climate or deed can change or influence, but, as I said before, this certainly does not contribute anything.

[Golan] Such actions definitely encourage the opponents of peace.

[Shamir] Such actions encourage all the enemies of Israel. I would use such general terms and describe them as the enemies of peace, since they are first and foremost

the enemies of peace, and we should not forget that. There still are many people in this region and outside it who foster hostility toward Israel, and this hostility occasionally has very serious consequences.

[Golan] Is this hostility not discouraging?

[Shamir] One never should despair. We should fight both for security and peace.

[Golan] Should we also keep on traveling to Egypt, despite what has happened to Israelis there?

[Shamir] I would not rush to say that, because human lives are involved.

[Einstein] Indeed, what about Israel's relations with Egypt? We had the incident in Ra's al-Burqa', and now we have this attack.

[Shamir] There have been several incidents, and the current one is the most serious of all, because it demonstrates the risk level has not decreased.

[Einstein] Interviewed by the Voice of Israel this morning, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni said the perpetrators were not Egyptian.

[Shamir] This does not detract from the sorrow and grief, because the Egyptian authorities are responsible for security in their own country, even if it is violated by non-Egyptians. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reacts

TA0502073190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Defense Minister Rabin.

[Rabin] Good day to you, too.

[Zohar] Is it already clear from news reports—some of which you could hear on IDF Radio—that this indeed was a planned attack directed against Israelis?

[Rabin] There is no doubt this was a murderous, despicable attack directed against an Israeli target in Egypt, in the very heart of Egypt. The perpetrators undoubtedly planned and prepared this operation beforehand to attack Israelis, damage Israeli-Egyptian relations, and perhaps even to harm the chances for peace in the region.

[Mardor] Judging from the contacts Israel has maintained with the Egyptians over the past few hours, how were you impressed with the level of cooperation at these difficult moments?

[Rabin] From the reports we have received from the military contingent which left on the Hercules cargo plane, we have learned there still are some matters that have not been taken care of. In addition to the crew, the plane carried two medical teams and a delegation from the Chief Military Rabbinate, which will handle the return of bodies to Israel. The Rabbinate delegation still has not made contact with those holding the bodies, and we hope they will reach them as soon as possible. On the other hand, the Egyptian authorities have been very helpful in permitting us to assess the condition of the Israeli wounded, so those hospitalized in Ismailia can be transferred to the Israel Air Force plane and taken to Israel.

[Zohar] How would you rate the Egyptians' pursuit of the terrorist squad?

[Rabin] I cannot say anything about this. I take a very serious view of the fact this is the fourth terror attack against Israelis on Egyptian soil. Up to this last tragic incident, nine Israelis have been killed in Egypt: seven in the Ra's al-Burqa' tragedy, as well as the murder of Israeli Embassy staffer Albert Atrakchi, God bless his soul, and the murder of Eti Tel-Or. In all of these horrendous and murderous incidents, the perpetrators were Egyptian. In two instances they came from two extremist Egyptian terrorist organizations acting against the Egyptian authorities, Israelis, and against peace between Egypt and Israel. In Ra's al-Burqa', it was an Egyptian soldier consumed by hatred toward Jews and Israel. Judging by preliminary findings—even though they are not conclusive—one cannot rule out it is an extremist Egyptian organization this time as well.

[Mardor] Could you, at this time, estimate the effect this event will have on Israeli-Egyptian relations, at least for the near future?

[Rabin] Look, right now we all are angry and in sorrow over this incident. We are concerned for the families that have lost their loved ones. We hope the injured will recover, although there still are several wounded apparently in critical condition. At the same time, one should remember we simultaneously must pursue two independent routes. The first one should be to combat terror, but in the right way. We should remember calls for a total eradication of terror have cost us very dearly in the past, and the results have not always justified the sacrifice. Look at the Peace for Galilee operation and the Lebanese war. At the same time, we must work to eliminate the reasons for terror—that is, to achieve political solutions that will give us security and further the cause of peace.

[Zohar] But because you also just said it was Egyptians who attacked the Israelis, just as in the previous incidents, would you say it can be clearly stated Israelis choosing to visit Egypt cannot enjoy even relative security?

[Rabin] I believe anyone familiar with the Middle East knows there are extremist elements who conduct terrorist activities in every Arab society and any Arab country, whatever its attitude toward Israel. Arab leaders and other Arab institutions also always have constituted targets for terror attacks. Of course, the primary target for all these extreme, insane elements is Israel and its very existence.

[Mardor] Today, would you advise Israelis to refrain from visiting Egypt?

[Rabin] I do not feel this is the appropriate moment to discuss this matter. In the long run, if this indeed happens, the terrorists who carried out these murderous crimes against Israelis in Egypt will have achieved their goal.

[Zohar] Will Israel perhaps demand an escort for buses coming from Israel?

[Rabin] I have no doubt Israel must demand the Egyptians take more efficient steps to ensure the safety of Israeli tourists in Egypt, just as we must demand the Egyptians make sure a situation in which terror elements coalesce within Egypt and later operate against targets within Israel cannot come to pass.

[Zohar] Thank you, Mr Rabin.

Egyptian Ambassador Comments

TA0502100090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman summarizing a telephone interview in Arabic with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni—live]

[Text] I asked Muhammad Basyuni for his reaction, as Egypt's ambassador in Israel, to the incident yesterday near Ismailia which resulted in eight Israeli deaths. Basyuni told me he strongly condemns the incident. He said the Egyptian Government already has relayed its official reaction to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and President Mubarak phoned Prime Minister Shamir to convey his denunciation of such crimes.

I asked Ambassador Basyuni if he knows the Organization for the Defense of the Oppressed, which assumed responsibility for the incident. Basyuni's response: I know of no such organization. This seems to be a non-Egyptian organization. Basyuni added this organization tried to sabotage the peace efforts in the Middle East and expressed hope peace shortly will come to this region.

Asked whether he sees any special reason for the timing of the incident, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel repeated what he earlier had said: This act is directed against the peace efforts. The objective is to sabotage peace in the Middle East.

I asked the Egyptian ambassador whether there is any chance, in his opinion, that yesterday's incident near Ismailia will harm Israeli-Egyptian relations. His answer was a categorical: No; Egypt always sees to it tourists and visitors to its soil are safe and secure. He stated the Israeli Government knows this is Egypt's policy. Muhammad Basyuni again expressed deep sorrow for yesterday's incident, hoping such an act against foreigners in Egypt will not happen again.

Al-Husayni 'Condemns' Attack

TA0502083490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, one of the leading Palestinian leaders in the territories, this morning condemned the bus attack near Ismailia and rejected the possibility Palestinians inspired by the PLO had perpetrated it.

He said he unequivocally condemns the attack, even if it becomes evident it was perpetrated by extremist Palestinians. Faysal al-Husayni expressed hope the incident will not harm the peace process.

Likud Postpones Meeting

TA0502083690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Likud secretariat decided a short while ago to postpone convention of the Likud Central Committee, scheduled for 7 February, because of the terrorist attack in Egypt.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Prime Minister Shamir was the one who suggested postponing the convention, and Minister Ari'el Sharon agreed.

At this time, the Likud secretariat still is meeting to decide on a new date for convention of the Likud Central Committee.

Sharon: 'Climate' of 'Hatred'

TA0502093890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0835 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by unidentified correspondents at end of Likud secretariat meeting—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Minister Sharon, has a new date been set for convention of the Likud Central Committee?

[Sharon] Today is a very hard day. We have been stricken by a very serious tragedy. Our dead still are lying before us. They unfortunately still are lying on the ground, and I think it has yet not been possible to gather our dead. We must put off the Likud Central Committee session. We must bear in mind the session I requested was meant to deal with exactly these kind of issues, issues of which we now have been horribly reminded. The Central Committee convention was scheduled to discuss safety of Jewish life—which, to my deep regret, has become cheap—as well as the political process leading to the peace all of us so much desire. We do not have people who yearn for peace more than others; all of us want peace. The argument is about the way to attain that peace and about Egypt's position and role in this process.

There are some in our midst who think Egypt is an important contributor to peace, but I say: Egypt does not

contribute and is not a contributor to peace. Peace with Egypt is important, but its positions and those of the PLO are one and the same. It therefore is very important the postponement—which I accept—should be used to deal with two main issues: 1. The safety of Jewish life: For the umpteenth time, I have asked the prime minister to once and for all give the order to wipe out the violence and terror which have been afflicting us for more than two years; 2. The political process and Egypt's role in it: In my opinion, we must reexamine this issue. Our efforts to attain peace and find a way—perhaps a new one—notwithstanding, we must reassess the Israel-Egypt-PLO triangle in connection with the peace negotiations. Peace is important, but insofar as the peace process is concerned, we must dismantle this triangle.

Many Israeli observers, both in the political sphere and in the media, unfortunately are trying to draw a distinction between Egypt and the perpetrators of this horrendous murder. Egypt itself creates a climate of incitement and hatred against Israel. There lately have been numerous anti-Israeli reports; even semiofficial publications have been carrying grotesque caricatures of Israel and its leaders. Only three days ago, we read remarks made by Usamah al-Baz, one of the most prominent Egyptian politicians, who said Israel is an alien presence on Palestinian soil. He furthermore did not rule out the possibility of a war between the Arabs and Israel. Only a few hours ago, we read about President Mubarak's cable to Gorbachev—a copy of which was sent to our Foreign Ministry, which I believe did not even bother to reply to it—pleading with him to put an end to Jewish immigration.

This unfortunately is the fourth time Jews have been murdered in Egypt. The last two times, although the murderers of the late Albert Atrakchi and Ester Tel-Or were apprehended, they have not yet been sentenced.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct due to superimposed question by another correspondent] ...that the Egyptians cannot play a key role in the peace process?

[Sharon] The Egyptians do not play a key role in the peace process. Egypt is not an objective and impartial country, if such countries exist at all when it comes to Israel. Israel wants peace, but not this way.

As for the Likud Central Committee convention, I did not want to go into this matter on such a tragic day, but I made it unequivocally clear the secretariat has no authority as far as convention of the Central Committee, the agenda, or the issues to be raised are concerned. As for the postponement, I will follow procedures: I will propose a date I will coordinate with the Likud chairman, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as should be.

[Correspondent] What about the meeting of the three foreign ministers?

[Sharon] My position on the political issues is well known. We have long ago strayed from the Camp David process and the Cabinet resolution of 14 May 1989 on the Israeli peace initiative. We have added things that before did not exist. We actually have been making concessions which only have weakened Israel and undermined its international stature, but have not brought peace closer.

Death Toll Reaches 10

TA0502103590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] According to reports received from Ben-Gurion Airport, a woman who was injured in yesterday's bus attack near Ismailia died of her wounds while being taken to Israel on the Israeli Air Force plane from Cairo.

This brings the number of fatalities to 10. The plane also carried the body of one of the dead, as well as 19 wounded and four who were not injured. All of the injured were taken by ambulance to the Tel Hashomer, Asaf Harofe, Kaplan, and Hadassah Hospitals. We were told none of them currently is in mortal danger.

In approximately one hour, another plane will take off for Cairo with a delegation from the Chief Military Rabbinate aboard. They will bring back the coffins of the other four fatalities of the bus attack. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Likud Central Committee Session

TA0202200190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, in the prime minister's office on 2 February—recorded]

[Text] ['Azran] Mr Prime Minister, good evening.

[Shamir] Good evening.

['Azran] What do you expect to place Wednesday in the Likud Central Committee meeting?

[Shamir] I expect the Central Committee to reach clear resolutions, for the session to be conducted orderly and respectfully, and by doing so to add power, prestige, and trust in the Likud Party.

['Azran] Why are you so persistent in your demand a vote of confidence be conducted? Do you fear for your party's confidence in you?

[Shamir] The test of confidence in the movement is general elections. In the current case, the issue is confidence in the movement's way as I see it. It is well known that for a long time now I have been dogged by strident, attacking, and slanderous voices coming from within my movement. This is abnormal. There can be arguments inside a movement, but they should be kept inside. When the debate bursts out, it damages the movement, and even more so when it becomes prolonged and continues. That is why I think that in this session, a decision of trust in the prime minister and the head of the movement must be made. This should be a decision

of confidence in his way, at present and in the future, and through this the decision will strengthen him and give him additional executive power to conduct policy the way he understands it.

['Azran] Why do you think the session will be conducted the way you have outlined it, and not become an all-out fight leading to a breakup of the Likud Central Committee?

[Shamir] Look, I hope this will not happen. Generally speaking, the Likud Central Committee members are wise and adult people, many of whom I know personally. They are experienced, and through the years their competence has increased. They know more, they know what things are about, and they know what is on the agenda. I hope they will be wise and make intelligent decisions.

['Azran] Where do you think Minister Sharon is leading the movement in his recent acts?

[Shamir] I will say nothing against Minister Sharon.

['Azran] Perhaps you could read his mind?

[Shamir] He speaks his mind himself more than enough. I do not need to add any interpretation.

['Azran] Sir, do you think the Likud ministers want to disband your government?

[Shamir] You should ask them. In any event, I am not interested in disbanding the government at this moment.

['Azran] Who will conduct the Central Committee session?

[Shamir] First, it is intolerable the opinion of the movement's chairman is totally ignored. Second, if the differences cannot be settled and an agreement reached, the Central Committee must be allowed to decide the agenda. The Central Committee chairman objects to that, I believe, without justification. It is accepted by the entire world that when there is no absolute agreement, and sometimes even when there is, the body conducting the session is asked for its approval of the agenda. All the more when there is no agreement. The Central Committee can be asked to agree and decide on the agenda.

['Azran] Assuming there is no agreement, at least judging by the way things stand now, will you take steps against Minister Sharon? Will you take advantage of your position as movement chairman to force him to comply?

[Shamir] I am not talking about forcing anyone. We are a democratic movement in a democratic state. What I want to reach is a situation in which the majority in the movement makes its stand, through a vote, in a clear fashion. This is all I want.

['Azran] As for the content of the issues, the way things stand the constraints ministers oppose the basic points of the issues you are going to raise. Are you speaking of an unequivocal resolution at the Likud Central Committee, even at the price of what might take place: a split in the Likud?

[Shamir] I do not believe there is any threat of a split, primarily because there are no ideological differences. When there are no ideological differences, there can be no reason for a split.

['Azran] Minister Sharon has said in public there is no landlord in the Likud.

[Shamir] Perhaps he wants to be the landlord. If so, he must present the Central Committee with something and accept its decision.

['Azran] Minister Levi has been criticizing you in the same manner.

[Shamir] This is what I am talking about. That is why I want an explicit Central Committee resolution of confidence in me and my way.

['Azran] If it happens—and it is possible—that the Likud Central Committee session breaks up, will you see that as a cause for your drawing personal conclusions?

[Sharon] I will have to make this decision after I see what happens. I do not believe an unclear situation is possible. I expect a clear resolution, pro or con, will be made. Naturally, if the Central Committee reaches a clear resolution stating it does not accept my way, it rejects my proposals, and does not grant me unequivocal confidence, I will have to draw conclusions.

['Azran] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

[Shamir] You are welcome. hl

U.S. Promises PLO Presence in Talks' 2d Stage

TA0502102890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 p 3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The PLO's agreement to the compromise proposals put forth by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, which do not grant the organization direct representation in the Cairo meeting, came after U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau promised the PLO leaders the U.S. Administration would support inclusion of two of its representatives in the second stage—namely, in the talks on the interim solution.

A Palestinian source participating in contacts on promotion of the peace process pointed out this is why the United States is not prepared to do away with the qualification that Israel will not be asked to negotiate with the PLO "in the current effort."

It should be pointed out in a telephone call with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Dennis Ross rejected Israel's request not to place a time limit on the negotiations with the PLO.

On the other hand, the United States has not rejected the PLO's demand the Cairo meeting be conducted on a low level and the members of the Palestinian delegation be allowed to consult openly with senior PLO officials who would be staying in the city during that time.

To emphasize the members of the delegation do not constitute an alternative to the PLO leadership, people such as Faysal al-Husayni—seen by Israel and the West as key leaders in the territories—will not be included in the delegation.

An Egyptian source stated last week Egypt and the PLO would not have complied with Baker's request to put off the meeting with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens until after the Likud Central Committee convention if they had not been promised if they attain the Central Committee's vote of confidence, Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens will find a way to support inclusion of two deportees and two inhabitants of East Jerusalem holding dual residency in the territories.

Although spokesmen of both Shamir and Arens deny such a possibility, other associates claim a compromise should not be ruled out, because both of them are aware of the fact Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin may not be able to prevent Shim'on Peres from disbanding the government.

3 Opposition Parties Delay No-Confidence Motions

TA0402222890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky this evening initiated an appeal to those opposition parties that had submitted motions of no confidence in the government, asking them to postpone the discussion of their motions.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports the United Workers Party, Shinuy, and the Citizens Rights Movement have announced they agree to Mr. Shilansky's request. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Said 'Prepared To Agree' on Talks

TA0502101090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Feb 90 p 1

[By David Makovsky]

[Text] The long-awaited trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of the U.S., Egypt, and Israel could convene next Sunday in Geneva to iron out remaining obstacles to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, a senior Egyptian said yesterday.

The Palestinians are prepared to agree with U.S. positions on all outstanding issues blocking commencement of the talks, the official said in a lengthy interview with THE JERUSALEM POST conducted before the terrorist attack on the Israeli tourist bus in Egypt.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak would be willing to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for a summit meeting, the official said, if Israel is prepared to resolve the last issues dividing both sides. If Shamir is ready to deal, he said, Egypt would provide him with a "red carpet welcome."

"The moment we are invited, we will come," diplomatic sources in Jerusalem responded last night.

The senior Egyptian official predicted that by end of the trilateral meeting the PLO will be ready to either concede the right to announce the Palestinian delegation to Egypt or to have one delegation member spontaneously announce the other members.

According to the official, the following picture emerges:

—Egypt would like a trilateral meeting next week, even if the inner cabinet does not approve plans to resolve the remaining issues in advance, but views the talks as "exploratory" before a final Israeli decision. The U.S., however, has been adamant that a trilateral meeting should be the last word before an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue commences.

—The PLO has already accepted the suggestions of the U.S., Vice Premier Shim'on Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that two of the Palestinian delegates hold dual residency, with homes in both East Jerusalem and in the West Bank. Included on the list would be two deportees who are still listed on the current West Bank population registry and who do not hold positions in the PLO or engage in terrorist activity.

—Egypt will present a list of Palestinian candidates to the Israeli delegation during the meeting and Israel, having accepted the above criteria for eligibility, will have the right to veto names on the list. "The principle is important," the official said. "Once we have the principles accepted, the exact names can be worked out. The Palestinians choose the list, and you have the veto. We know Israel will not come (to the Cairo talks) unless there is an acceptable list."

—The Soviets could join the U.S. and "supervise" or observe the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, but first it should work out with Israel a timetable for resuming full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has so far refused to accept the positions of Peres, Rabin, and the U.S. and compromise on the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The senior Egyptian official was hopeful that Shamir—no longer paralyzed by hardliners after Wednesday's Likud Central Committee meeting—would convene the inner cabinet on Thursday and agree to the compromise outlined above.

The official said he did not think Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' departure for Europe on Thursday should delay such a meeting, as Arens could vote by proxy.

According to the scenario, Arens will arrive in Geneva after visiting Prague to inaugurate the renewal of diplomatic relations with that country. Secretary of State James Baker would arrive in Geneva after talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in S. Lebanon IDF Clash

TA0302095190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in southern Lebanon last night in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our forces did not suffer any casualties.

UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht the clash occurred near Rashaf on the security zone border. Our correspondent also reports a terrorist squad last night used RPG rockets to attack an SLA [South Lebanese Army] outpost near Kafr Hamam, but no one was hurt.

CSSR, Poland Ties To Be Restored in Feb

TA0302193690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports the heads of the Alignment this evening agreed with the reports the tripartite foreign ministers meeting will be conducted only after the Likud Central Committee meeting [on 7 February] and after the Egyptian replies concerning composition of the Palestinian delegation have been discussed by the Inner Cabinet.

This contradicts the original U.S. and Egyptian intentions to conduct the meeting in the next few days after Secretary of State Baker ends his talks in Moscow.

Our correspondent notes Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will leave for Prague the day after the Likud Central Committee meeting to attend the ceremony reestablishing diplomatic relations between Israel and Czechoslovakia. Ties with Poland will be reestablished 26 February.

Nuclear Research Center Head Interviewed

TA0202171390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Gid'on Shavit, head of the Nuclear Research Center Negev (NRCN) Marketing Department and director general of Rotem Industries, by Gay Zohar; from the "Right Now" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zohar] Gid'on Shavit, head of the NRCN marketing department and director general of Rotem Industries, shalom.

[Shavit] Shalom.

[Zohar] Do you represent the absolutely overt aspect of the NRCN?

[Shavit] Yes. My job is to make commercially viable products from technologies born of NRCN scientific research. As such, we have a wide range of connections in Israel and abroad with companies and other privately owned bodies. That is why it is all open and known.

[Zohar] Meaning that the NRCN deals with defense issues, which no one ever talks about or is ready to comment on, such as in the Vanunu case. At the same time, it is engaged in day-to-day business and commercial enterprises revolving around the same developments relevant to REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] and other defense industries.

[Shavit] Yes. The NRCN is a nuclear research institution linked with the Atomic Energy Commission, which belongs to the Prime Minister's Office. In this framework we have a company, also connected with the Prime Minister's Office, called Rotem Industries, of which I am director general and which mainly deals with the international ties needed to implement and market technologies used in NRCN scientific research and development. This is how we are trying to develop advanced industries in the Negev.

[Zohar] It would be true to say, however, that even you in Rotem do not give too many media interviews.

[Shavit] We do not give too many interviews because IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Radio does not get here too often.

[Zohar] Well, we are here now. Are you developing civilian products in the NRCN? Is there such a thing?

[Shavit] To say products as such is not exactly accurate. We, as a research institution, are more typically involved in research and development. We have research and implementation teams in the NRCN. We deal with diverse and interesting topics. We make every effort, in the commercial area, to increase the income of the State of Israel. It is very important to us to expand activity in this area, particularly in view of the situation in the Negev. With this in mind, we have set up an industrial park near Dimona in which we are commercially active.

[Zohar] Could you please briefly review the various topics the NRCN deals with and can be mentioned here?

[Shavit] I will give you a detailed account of everything we do in the following product families:

The first area, electro-optics, is divided into three groups. The first is lasers, quite a unique group for us; the second is crystal growth; and the third is optical systems, for which we have established a subsidiary called Rotlex Optics.

The second field of our activity is detection and identification, both in terms of detection and identification of gases and in detection of radiation—which naturally is our specialty.

The third group develops various materials and processes. Here we have an issue that is uniquely ours—producing uranium from phosphoric acid.

[Zohar] Is it unique for Israel?

[Shavit] Other countries know how to produce uranium from phosphoric acid, but we have a unique method—and as you may well know, Israel has a lot of phosphoric acid not far from us in Dimona.

The fourth area is the environment, which today is a fast-developing issue in the world. The NRCN has much to contribute to the state in this respect by advising, conducting research, and even through monitoring systems we can operate.

[Zohar] Is there no contradiction between what we know of the atom and its destructive effects and dealing with environmental quality?

[Shavit] No, there is not. The nuclear industries are known for their awareness of the environment and desire to maintain its high quality. We know how to implement our expertise in this area in other research centers, because we are a scientific nuclear center.

[Zohar] Would I be right in saying what you are marketing are by-products of other NRCN activities?

[Shavit] Yes, of course. The NRCN was founded and has been known as a research institute for many years. At its outset, it did not deal with such topics. The area I am in charge of is relatively young.

[Zohar] How long has it existed?

[Shavit] I would say the area has been dealt with for some 5 years, but the past 3 years have seen more intensive activity on our part. This mainly is a result of the NRCN becoming mature and well established. There furthermore have been budget difficulties, coupled with our desire to expand our income. The government approved our developing and expanding—in this region in particular—of additional activity which would increase the spectrum of our resources and sources of income.

[Zohar] Were you involved in activity in the NRCN even before this? As far as you are concerned, was this a stepping out of the shadows?

[Shavit] I am quite an old-timer in the NRCN. I used to head the finance department, and I now am in charge of marketing.

[Zohar] How did this transition affect you? The NRCN's activity always has been secretive and mysterious, and even today very few discuss it.

[Shavit] Look, for me personally, it was no great change. The financial area is relatively close to the business and marketing aspects. It was quite natural.

[Zohar] How was it as far as the scientists in research are concerned? They always have worked for a single client, and all of the sudden they step into some sort of competition with many other companies and people in the world, which means they also have to prove themselves elsewhere.

[Shavit] This is a very good question. This change or shift in concept has not been easy. These are people who were used to doing research but suddenly must comply with competitive specifications or activities. It was not easy and did not happen overnight. We have invested quite a bit in teaching the marketing aspect—which has been the weaker side—to those scientists. We still are investing a great deal in it. Adopting the concept of commercial production when compared to one of research per se was not easy. Let me give you one example: When you deal with this aspect, you must provide what the client needs, not what is asked of you when you have a budget. This is a substantial change.

[Zohar] To what extent does the credit the world gives us in the nuclear field act in your favor and balance out your lack of experience?

[Shavit] The credit is there. We have very distinguished research teams in certain aspects. Not in all aspects, because we do not deal with all aspects. In those we are in, we are definitely first rank. In terms of nuclear research, Israel as a small country has more significance in quality than quantity.

[Zohar] It is often said perhaps it is not the size, but the knowledge, the quality.

[Shavit] There is quality. We have unique know-how. After all, we have engineers and scientists who have been maintaining a very high standard and have both experience and competence. We are trying to translate our skills into business terms.

[Zohar] Recently, and particularly from the time of the Vanunu affair, there has been a sort of public debate on the nuclear issue in Israel. This sort of debate before has not existed. Is there such a debate in the NRCN, or is everyone taking it for granted and not asking too many philosophical questions?

[Shavit] Look, we at the NRCN know exactly what we have achieved and what we are doing. As far as we are concerned, we have been working in this field from the beginning of the nuclear research, which is our main field of work. It will remain such; we are not turning into a business. The activity I am in charge of will always be an additional one; it will never become the main component. It will, however, gain standing as a very important component.

[Zohar] These days, however, there are people who maintain the NRCN and all the knowledge the State of

Israel has should be opened in a way similar to other countries who have done so one way or another. Why do you not make your activity public so people in Israel know what is happening in the NRCN in Dimona, and not only in the civilian aspect?

[Shavit] Our activity is being published. We have scientific publications. These are the kind of things you do not read about in the newspaper. The same is true for all scientific publications. Take the Weizman Institute or the Technion [Israel Institute of Technology], for example. Their publications or activities are not made public too often. Like the Weizman Institute, we publish and there are publications of our activities. Our men attend congresses, publish, are known in the scientific community, and are widely known in professional circles.

[Zohar] Gid'on Shavit, this is your first radio interview. Do we bite?

[Shavit] It was nice, thank you.

[Zohar] Thank you, and a nice day to you.

Further Reportage on 2 Feb 'Awn, LF Conflict

Fall of Adma Airbase Denied

NC0202181890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] A military source in the al-Yarzah gangs ['Awn's army] denied this afternoon that the Adma airbase has fallen or that the officers there are negotiating with the Lebanese Forces. He said that the airbase is still resisting.

The source also denied reports that the Lebanese Forces have seized the 'Amshit barracks, saying that battles are still raging there.

The source spoke of the attacks launched by the Lebanese Forces in the Beirut area since this morning, saying that the army had repulsed all these attacks. The source also admitted that the Juniyah naval base had fallen into the hands of the Lebanese Forces. He said that naval units in the base had been evacuated to the open sea before the Lebanese Forces entered the base. [passage omitted]

Casualty Toll in East Reported

NC0202182690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] According to the latest reports, more than 100 persons have been killed and over 300 injured in the fighting raging in the eastern areas. The western area has also paid a price for this fighting: 13 persons have been killed and more than 90 injured as a result of the shelling from the eastern area. The possibility that this shelling of West Beirut and Southern Suburb areas was premeditated is not ruled out.

The al-'Antari, Burj al-Murr, and American University areas came under shelling tonight. [passage omitted]

Casualites in West Reported

NC0202183390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The treacherous shelling originating from the eastern area has not spared West Beirut. Heavy shells fell this evening in 'Ayn al-Muraysah, al-Manarah, Wadi Abu-Jamil, Burj al-Barajinah, Harat Hurayk, al-Maramil, and Bi'r al-'Abd, leaving five people injured in the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

According to the latest casualty count in West Beirut, 4 persons were killed and 38 injured today as a result of the bombardment ordered by 'Awn to drag West Beirut into a military confrontation. Earlier today, shells fell in Mar Ilyas, injuring three persons who were taken to the hospital. The bombardment caused fires. In addition, the areas of al-Nuwayrah, Ra's al-Nab', Qasqas, al-Musaytibah, Ziqaq al-Balat, Wadi Abu-Jamir, al-Hamra', al-Zarif, Karakul al-Duruz, 'A'ishah Bakkar, UNESCO, al-Janah, Shatila, al-Shiyyah, and Sfayr came under shellfire from artillery emplacements in the eastern area. The bombardment caused a fire in Mu'awwad market in the Southern Suburb.

We call on the citizens to be very careful and vigilant, because treacherous people may seek to harm peaceful citizens in West Beirut. A security source has warned citizens in West Beirut to take maximum precautions when moving around.

'Awn on Ja'ja'-Hubayqah Collusion

NC0202185090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] In a statement today, Michel 'Awn referred to secret meetings held between officials from the eastern area and representatives of some foreign capitals within the framework of what he termed the plot being hatched against him. He also referred to a reconciliation concluded between the two wings of the Lebanese Forces—led by Samir Ja'ja' and Elie Hubayqah respectively—with the aim of imposing the al-Ta'if accord. After making these accusations, he said that the spirit of hostility and cruelty shown by those attacking the army and the people has exposed the criminal nature of the plot. This plot is directing and moving them to act in a manner contrary to that for which the honest and clean rifles of liberation were made, 'Awn said. He added that unity of resistance is urgently needed and this is what we meant when we called on them to unite the resistance within the framework of the army, after the people had become convinced that this is the only honest and effective force for resisting the occupation and rejecting the agreements of humiliation.

'Awn Arrests Army Officers

NC0202202490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Former army commander Michel 'Awn has tacitly admitted defeat, using as a pretext the fact that those fighting on his side are from the reserve forces. He said that what is taking place is a premeditated operation that began with secret meetings between officials from the eastern area and abroad. In a televised message, 'Awn disclosed that he has arrested a number of officers for complicity . He said that the Lebanese Forces facilitated the escape abroad of two officers who were involved in this scheme.

Arrested Officers Named

NC0202212290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn tonight admitted that he has detained a number of officers on the grounds of disloyalty. The detained officers are: Air Force Lieutenant Colonel William Mulaylah, Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf al-Tahhan, and Colonel Antoine Sa'd. 'Awn accused

these officers of (?leaking) information and of distributing leaflets within the Army ranks calling for stopping the suicidal operation launched by 'Awn.

Shelling Abates; Power Station Hit

NC0202204990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The rocket and artillery shelling became less intense a short while ago. However, shells continue to fall occasionally on al-Ashrafiyah, al-Tahwitah, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and nearby areas. [passage omitted]

The al-Bawshariyah power plant, which supplies Beirut and its suburbs with electricity, was directly hit by 'Awn's shelling tonight. The plant suffered extensive damage and was shut down. Several oil tanks were blown up in the power plant and it is feared that the leaking oil may catch fire, destroy the generators, and put the facility out of operation for a long time. It is requested that the station be spared further shelling so as to enable the firemen and civil defense teams to extinguish the fire before it is too late.

3 Feb 'Awn, LF Continued Fighting Reported

'Awn Forces Shell Beirut Areas

NC0302065690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Today is the 4th day since 'Awn launched his war to abolish the Lebanese Forces and his scorched earth policy against the eastern areas. [passage omitted]

The 'Awn groups today resumed their savage bombardment of residential areas, causing further losses of life and equipment. According to the latest security reports, al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, Badaru, al-Karantina, al-Judaydah, al-Dawrah, al-Bawshariyah, and the Kasrawan coast came under concentrated bombardment at 0445 today.

According to AFP, 116 people have been killed and 427 wounded over the past 3 days. However, a Red Cross source affirmed that the toll is much higher because a large number of casualties could not be taken to hospitals because of the continuing fighting.

LF Claims 'Free' Beirut Areas

NC0302092590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces]

[Text] Following contacts this morning with officers of the Lebanese army brigades deployed in the area extending from the port throught Sodeco and up to al-Nasirah, all these brigades decided to join their comrades in the Lebanese Forces.

Thus, all the free areas of Beirut are now under the command of the Lebanese Forces. Long live the Lebanese resistance and long live Lebanon.

LF Statement on 'Inaccurate' Report

NC0302100890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces media department]

[Text] Some journalists, especially those representing foreign media organizations, are disseminating inaccurate reports about military developments in the eastern area of Beirut.

Recognizing the current difficult circumstances under which journalists are working, we invite all Lebanese, Arab, and foreign journalists to contact the Lebanese Forces media department. We are ready to provide transport for them to wherever they want, so that they can convey a clear and accurate picture of the developments.

'Awn on Offensive 'Progress'

NC0302103390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes between the 'Awn cliques and the Lebanese Forces are continuing in the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Furn al-Shubbak. These two areas, as well as the areas of al-Ashrafiyah, al-Tahwitah, Badaru, and the al-Matn coast, are coming under heavy artillery fire from tanks and rocket launchers.

'Awn's information and military sources noted that the al-Yarzah cliques have made progress in the offensive against the approaches to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, which they launched at dawn today, and that the movement of the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut has been restricted. The sources added that these cliques have captured gunmen's positions on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah lines at the al-Rif Bank, the Harb pharmacy, and Hayy al-Summut.

Lebanese Forces sources have not mentioned the attack on 'Ayn al-Rummanah. They noted the resumption of the shelling against the areas of al-Dawrah, Mar Mikha'il, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah by the 'Awn group, amid limited skirmishes involving the use of automatic weapons and rockets in areas where fierce battles had taken place.

Appeals were addressed to firemen to go to the al-Suyufi area to extinguish fires caused by the shelling.

West Beirut Shelling Casualties

NC0302104490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Shells fired from the eastern area today fell in various areas of West Beirut and the Southern Suburb.

One woman died and four people were wounded when shells fell in Harat Hurayk. The casualties were taken to the al-Sahil Hospital. Three people were wounded when shells fell in Ra's al-Nab'.

Pursuit, Detention of LF Cited

NC0302111590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The 'Awn-affiliated radio station has reported that 'Awn's forces are continuing to pursue the gunmen who abandoned their positions, especially those in the area of the northern al-Matn coast, after these forces advanced. The radio added that a large number of Lebanese Forces gunmen, including non-Lebanese nationals, have been detained. A military source in the 'Awn forces denied that these forces have withdrawn or that they turned over any of their positions to the Lebanese Forces.

REUTER news agency cited a security source as saying that the Lebanese Forces have extended their area of control in the northern region. The 'Awn forces are trying to tighten their grip on the main headquarters of the Lebanese Forces in al-Karantina.

AFP reported that the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantina, where the Lebanese Forces' headquarters is located, came under intermittent shellfire from field artillery and tank guns this morning.

'Awn Forces Unable To Advance

NC0302110390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The 'Awn groups continue their bombardment of residential areas in Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, and Hayy al-Siryan. Meanwhile, heavy fighting is current raging at the eastern approach to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, where 'Awn groups' attempts to advance are being thwarted.

'Awn Troops Join LF, Lahhud Army

NC0302121290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Our radio has learned that the bulk of 'Awn's troops deployed along the combat lines have joined the Lebanese Forces, while the remainder joined the legitimate army led by General Emile Lahhud. Eighty soldiers and seven officers from the 7th Brigade joined the legitimate army command at the Scouts City in al-Batrun.

A military source in the al-Yarzah [pro-'Awn] command has denied that 'Awn troops handed over positions to what he termed the gunmen in Beirut and the suburbs. He accused the Lebanese Forces of firing at 'Awn's troops along the demarcation lines in coordination with what he said were occupation gunmen.

'Awn Denies Troop Defections

NC0302163190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes in al-Ashrafiyah in East Beirut continue, and the Mar Ilyas area in West Beirut is being shelled. Citing a security source, AFP said about 400 'Awn troops joined the West Beirut army command today. The source said the Ninth Brigade's 93d Battalion [words indistinct] General Emile Lahhud. The same source added that troops joined the army barracks in West Beirut with two tanks, four armored vehicles, three personnel carriers, and three military jeeps.

[Paris AFP in English in a Beirut-datelined report at 1548 GMT on 3 February adds: "Some 400 army troops loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn crossed the Green Line dividing Beirut Saturday to join Lebanese army units backing President Ilyas al-Hirawi security sources said.

"Gen. 'Awn's office categorically denied the report of the defection, the first since fierce fighting began Wednesday between his troops and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia for control of the Christian sectors of Beirut.

"The LF however claimed that 1,000 troops loyal to Gen. 'Awn, including some posted on the demarcation line, had surrendered to the militia led by Samir Ja'ja' since the battle began.

"This was similarly denied by the general's office."]

'Awn Admits Defections

NC0302225290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] AFP has reported that around 400 troops from the 93d Battalion of the 9th Brigade which had been deployed along the Beirut contact lines have joined the command of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. The agency reported that the troops joined a barracks in West Beirut, taking two tanks, four armoured vehicles, three troop carriers, and three military jeeps with them.

The agency quoted an official Lebanese Forces source as saying that approximately 1,000 'Awn troops, particularly those who had been deployed on the confrontation lines, have joined the Lebanese Forces.

'Awn's radio station has admitted that troops have joined Lahhud's command and justified that by saying that the 93d Battalion was forced to move to the Normandie area [in West Beirut] after coming under violent artillery fire. The radio added that another battalion in al-Madfun was forced to withdraw to the Scouts City in Smar Jubayl. This was another justification that 'Awn invented.

Hospital Cited on Casualty Toll

NC0302191690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] According to hospital sources, the most recent count indicates approximately 163 people have been killed and about 574 others wounded in the eastern area. In the western area 22 were killed and about 98 others wounded.

Residential Bombardment Abates

NC0302223290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Bursts from machineguns and artillery fire continue to be heard occasionally as a result of skirmishes on some fronts, particularly in the areas of Badaru and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The bombardment, which was carried out by 'Awn's group upon his orders to demolish houses and cause the greatest possible damage to people's property, has now abated.

Artillery shells continue to fall unexpectedly in a sporadic manner. This keeps the Lebanese people cautious because of the treacherous bombardment.

The fires caused by 'Awn's bombardment in the al-Dawrah-Nahr al-Mawt area continue to blaze. It is difficult to estimate the losses because of how extensive the fires are.

Al-Hirawi Denies Willingness To Assist Ja'ja'

NC0302084790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese president's information bureau; date not given]

[Text] The president of the Republic has never said that he will assist the Lebanese Forces if Ja'ja' accepts the al-Ta'if agreement. He said that the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud is the legitimate army which will restore unity and peace to Lebanon.

Maronite Patriarch Appeals for End to Fighting

NC0302102390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the office of the Maronite patriach in Bkirki on 3 February]

[Text] For the fourth time and in response to the repeated calls for help which we have been receiving from suffering people in various areas, we call on those responsible for the internecine fighting to cease their firing and treat their prisoners with kindness. We also ask them to reopen the roads so that the wounded can receive treatment, citizens can buy basic necessities, and students, including children, can return to their homes. Students have been stranded at their schools for the past 4 days. We call on those responsible to end this unjustified bloody tragedy, consult their conscience, and settle the dispute through dialogue. There is no need for us to recall that the victor in this war will be a loser and that the greatest loser will be Lebanon, which needs both sides to defend it.

Lebanese Forces, 'Awn Agree to Cease-Fire

NC0302112690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Command]

[Text] In response to the cease-fire appeal by Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr and the efforts of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, the Lebanese Forces announces that it will observe a cease-fire as of 1315 today. Its forces will continue to defend their barracks.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1120 GMT on 3 February adds: "Our radio has learned that 'Awn has accepted this appeal. Our radio also learned that the cease-fire will go into effect at 1315. Contacts are under way to enforce the cease-fire."]

Agreement Outlined

NC0302120190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1147 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The bishop of Beirut, Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman have issued the following joint statement:

The contacts we have been making ever since yesterday and until now came out with the following results:

First, a total and immediate cease-fire starting at 1315, upon the urgent appeals of Patriarch Sfayr, the papal nuncio, and also the citizens;

Second, keep all vehicles and forces in location until an agreement is reached to pull them out to their basic positions, remove the barriers, and open all the roads.

Third, the formation of a joint committee of both sides to enforce a cease-fire;

Fourth, to form a joint committee also to supervise discussion of the problems in depth under the supervision of the papal nuncio.

'Awn Forces Violate Cease-Fire

NC0302152190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese forces are committed to the cease-fire which 'Awn has accepted. But then the 'Awn group violated the cease-fire shortly before 1630 when they used artillery to shell the areas of Badaru and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The shelling later expanded to other areas on the al-Matn coast.

Agreement Collapses, Clashes Resume

NC0302154690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Shells fell on al-Ashrafiyah, Badaru, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah [in East Beirut] at 1650 today, resulting in the collapse of the cease-fire. 'Awn accepted the cease-fire in order to reinforce his positions. The cease-fire collapsed, and clashes resumed on all fronts with al-Ashrafiyah coming under heavy artillery shelling.

VOL Interviews Lebanese Forces' Ja'ja' 3 Feb

NC0302191790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by an unidentified correspondent of Voice of Lebanon Radio; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Our first question could be a traditional one: The Lebanese Forces have responded to the appeals [for a cease-fire] made by the patriarch and the pontif through the papal nuncio in Lebanon. What were the steps and the motives that preceded this agreemement, and what are the stages that led to this agreement?

[Ja'ja'] The fact is that the Lebanese Forces were against opening fire from the beginning. The Lebanese Forces only carried out their duty and what was required of them very faithfully, meticulously, with a scientific spirit, courageously, patiently, and carefully, and even without any clamor or partiality, and without seeking gratitude—so much so that we recently reached the point where probably nobody even felt our presence. We did not want firing to start. Therefore, you should not be surprised by our acceptance of the cease-fire. We open fire only when fired upon. [passage omitted]

What happened is a long story, and I do not want to start narrating it from the beginning. What happened during the past 5 or 6 days is that a decision was made to abolish the Lebanese Forces. The decision was gradually implemented by using various pretexts such as a school that has been closed for 5 years, gambling—as if the Lebanese Forces' barracks were Casino Lubnan—and hashish. I can proudly say that there has been no hashish trafficking during the past 4 years, thanks to the numerous campaigns we carried out to prevent trafficking. They have been using various pretexts to implement the decision to do away with the Lebanese Forces. In the last 2 or 3 days, General 'Awn has said that he does not accept the presence of Lebanese Forces and that there can be no military establishment besides the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What do you think about the shelling of West Beirut? What is the reason for it, and who is doing it and why? [passage omitted]

[Ja'ja'] [passage omitted] You ask for my opinion—I tell you I do not know. If you give me half an hour or 1 hour, I will peruse the monitored reports and will then know the area from which West Beirut was shelled. However, the shelling is definitely not being done by our side. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Doctor, you said that there are two simple points to solve the differences. The first point is the abolition of the decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces.

[Ja'ja'] Correct.

[Correspondent] Can any such an abolition be taken seriously, and can it be implemented? Naturally, the answer is no. Since the answer is no, why was fighting the response to the decision?

[Ja'ja'] Perhaps they have been trying their luck. However, I again say: The matter is simple—let the general rescind his decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces and then let political freedoms be restored to the country. The whole crisis would then end. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Are there contacts with President al-Hirawi?

[Ja'ja'] No.

[Correspondent] Oh, I made a mistake and called him president. Never mind.

[Ja'ja'] A ruling will be made against you. [laughs] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How is the military situation on the ground now?

[Ja'ja'] Very good, very good. Let me make a closing statement. First, I address the youth in the Lebanese Army. Let nobody make them believe that there is an attempt to devour them, to annex them, or to get rid of them. These are tendentious rumors and untrue remarks. The Lebanese Army is our army, and we must preserve it with all our power. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Fighting, 'Awn 'Crimes'

NC0302132090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq—recorded]

[Excerpts] The cabinet met in Beirut today under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

His excellency the president opened the extraordinary session by expressing extreme concern at the acts of violence, armed confrontation, killing, and destruction taking place in the eastern area. He said that the state has a direct concern in these events and is deeply touched by the suffering of our people and kinfolk. He affirmed that the state is not and cannot be a party to the conflict,

because the legitimate government is the government of all Lebanon, all its territory, and all its people. The government's position is clear. It advocates the need to return to democratic principles and for the constitutional institutions to assume their responsibilities and powers.

His excellency informed the cabinet of the contents of the report submitted by the higher Arab tripartite committee, which reaffirms its support for Lebanon and its readiness to extend the necessary assistance to implement a comprehensive development plan. The report also calls for contacts to convene an Arab summit conference and condemns the phenomenon of rebellion and division.

His excellency also informed the cabinet of the court decision to remove the occupiers at the Lebanese Embassy in Washington and to hand the embassy over to the legitimate Lebanese authorities, as well as the U.S. Government's decision to approve the appointment of the new ambassador, Eng Nasib Lahhud. [passage omitted]

The cabinet denounced the acts of violence taking place in the eastern area which are also affecting the western area, noting that peaceful people are being subjected to greater suffering and losses because of the state of rebellion, disobedience, and usurpation of power prevailing there.

The cabinet decided to refer officers Michel 'Awn, Edgar Ma'luf, and 'Isam 'Abu-Jamrah to the judicial council for crimes against state security. These offenses result from the usurpation of political and civilian authority by 'Awn, Ma'luf, and 'Abu-Jamrah, 'Awn's usurpation of military command, the theft of state funds, the seizure of public utilities and official institutions, the initiation of civil war, and responsibility for mass murder and destruction.

The cabinet then heard a report by the health and social affairs minister on the supply of water and services. It also heard a report by the interior minister and acting defense minister on preparations for the implementation of the security plan in West Beirut, Beirut international airport, and their environs. It expressed satisfaction with the positive response from the parties concerned.

The cabinet continues to follow the developments in the military and security situation and the supply situation. It continues to work to extend the necessary assistance to our kinfolk in the eastern and the western areas. It is taking all measures necessary and possible to deal with emergency cases. [passage omitted]

Washington Embassy Handed Over Without Incident

NC0302191790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Embassy in Washington has been handed over to Bassam Ni'mani, former consul and current charge d'affaires. The new ambassador, Nasib Lahhud, is expected to arrive and take up his post. We would like to note that the embassy was handed over calmly, without objections or incidents.

'Awn, LF 4 Feb Continued Clashes Reported

Heavy Shelling, Clashes in East

NC0402073290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The general's war against the Lebanese Forces is continuing for the 5th day running. The destructive shelling which spares no human life or property is also continuing. The Voice of Lebanon radio has been coming under heavy shellfire since early this morning in an attempt to silence it. If what the Voice of Lebanon says hurts, this is because the truth in this war hurts.

Looked at from a distance, the eastern area seemed to be shrouded in clouds of smoke. The people have become prisoners of their shelters and lower floors, while madness rules the situation above ground.

With this tragic picture, the people are asking: How long will this bloodbath go on among the brothers? In whose interest is the assassination of the eastern area?

Amid these questions, one fact remains: What has been taking place for the past 5 days is a real hell and it must be ended.

The situation in the field was characterized by absolute madness last night. It culminated at dawn in fierce battles in the Nahr al-Mawt area. The 'Awn groups successively shelled the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Badaru, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Dawrah, where fires in the fuel depots are still blazing. Upper and lower al-Matn are coming under shelling. Clashes involving the use of artillery and rocket weapons took place in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Chevrolet, Jisr al-Basha, and Sa'at al-'Abd areas. There were also clashes last night on the Darayya, al-Qulay'at, and Adma fronts in the Kasrawan region.

Fierce Battles Continue

NC0402093290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Fierce battles involving the use of various types of weapons are taking place in the eastern area between the forces loyal to former army commander Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces. The two sides have attempted to assault each other's positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, Badaru, Nahr al-Mawt, and al-Dawrah.

According to reports received from the eastern area, the Lebanese Forces concentrated their attacks on the positions of the pro-'Awn forces on the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, while the pro-'Awn forces are focusing their attacks in the al-Ashrafiyah and al-Dawrah areas.

The criminal shelling of West Beirut and its southern suburb has continued since early this morning. Shells have fallen in Ra's al-Nab', al-Barbir, al-Nuwayri, al-Bastah, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Mar Ilyas, al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Wata al-Musaytibah, Wadi Abu-Jamil, Zuqaq al-Balat, Raml al-Zarif, and 'Ayn al-Muraysah in West Beirut, as well as in Sufayr and al-Shiyah in the Southern Suburb.

The casualty toll in the current fighting so far, accordng to REUTER, is 175 people killed and 900 injured.

5 Killed in 'Ayn al-Rummanah

NC0402092490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's clique is directing concentrated artillery fire at Kasrawan, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Tahwitah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, Nahr al-Mawt, and al-Dubayyah. An artillery shell set the Sa'b building in Zuq Musbih ablaze. Meanwhile, fire is still raging in the al-Dawrah fuel reservoirs.

The shellfire has killed 5 persons in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. They are Joyce, Marie, and Roni 'Abd-al-Nur, Julia Rub'mid, and Yumna 'Indari.

Papal Nuncio, Maronite Patriarch Issue Appeals

Papal Nuncio Cease-Fire Appeal

NC0402102890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Appeal by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente from the Papal Nunciature in Harisa on 4 February—read by announcer]

[Text] I address this appeal to the Lebanese in general and the Christians, who are suffering from this appalling war, in particular. Right now, I cannot establish any telephone communication with the parties to the conflict. Therefore, I address my appeal via radio and television to the leaders of the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army. I hope you will listen to me.

These battles are sheer madness, futile, and criminal. I repeat clearly that battles among Christians are a crime. Children, women, and civilians are the victims. Almost 200 people have been killed and over 1,000 wounded so far. The hospitals have run out of blood. Water and electricity supplies are cut off. The people are desperate. This is a crime against Lebanon. No one can say that this war is in Lebanon's interest. Equally, no one can say that the war is in the interest of the Lebanese. It is a futile war which must be stopped.

The Christians have never been so desperate. No Christian has ever lived under such terrible conditions. To the believers I say in the name of God; to those who love Lebanon I say in the name of Lebanon; and to those who love children I say in the name of the children: Stop this vicious war.

I address a special appeal to General 'Awn and Ja'ja'. I tell them that I am proposing the following, in order that a solution may be reached:
First, a comprehensive cease-fire at 1230, with the vehicles and forces remaining in their present locations;
Second, the revival of the committee in charge of supervising the cease-fire; and
Third, the establishment of a high-level emergency committee to handle the basic issues.

Sfayr Tells Forces To 'Disobey'

NC0402153690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Today Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr urged the armed personnel under the absconding and accused Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces led by Samir Ja'ja' to disobey their commanders' orders. They have been fighting for 5 days to control Beirut's eastern area.

In an appeal broadcast on radio and television, the Maronite Patriarch said: We have already appealed to your commanders four times to halt the battles, but the appeals were in vain. We now appeal to you; it is your moral duty to stop the fighting. You are at liberty to disobey your commanders' orders.

Patriarch Sfayr added: Stop this suicide and stop killing your brothers and relatives who are confined to shelters without water and electricity and sometimes even without food. You will incur God's wrath if you continue this madness.

LF Command Responds to Cease-Fire Appeals

NC0402103790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1018 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] We have received the following from the Lebanese Forces command:

The Lebanese Forces are ready to observe a cease-fire in response to Patriarch Sfayr's wishes, Bishop Abi-Nadir's appeal, and to all the efforts.

The Lebanese Forces command declares that it is committed to any arrangements to cease-fire and that it did not start the battles. The Lebanese Forces blame the continuation of this battle on the other party, if it does not observe the cease-fire or continues its attacks on the Lebanese Forces positions and innocent citizens.

Approves Papal Nuncio's Formula

NC0402110890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] We have received the following from [Samir Ja'ja'] the commander of the Lebanese Forces:

In response to the wishes of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, the Lebanese Forces announces its commitment to the

cease-fire and approval of the formula proposed by the papal nuncio to deal with the situation.

Attacks Continue Despite Cease-Fire Appeals

'Awn 'Responds' to Appeals

NC0402114390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Despite the papal nuncio's cease-fire appeal and the Lebanese Forces' commitment to the cease-fire, shells are still landing in East Beirut, particularly the area where the Lebanese Forces general headquarters is located, as well as al-Ashrafiyah. [passage omitted]

The commander of the Lebanese Forces had earlier declared that the forces agreed to the cease-fire and accepted the formula for a solution proposed by the papal nuncio. A high-ranking military source has announced that General 'Awn has responded to the series of appeals.

LF Check Tank Attack

NC0402125090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1207 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces units checked a tank attack launched by 'Awn's clique along the 'Awkar-al-Dubayyah axis shortly before noon today. According to reports from the scene of the attack, the troops which 'Awn had dragged into the battle have suffered heavy material and human losses. The same reports say that the Lebanese Forces pursued the attackers.

A short while ago AFP carried a report which says: For the first time today, there are identical reports of wide-scale defections from 'Awn's ranks.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1224 GMT on 4 February says: " According to the latest security reports, clashes along the al-Dawrah-'Ayn al-Rummanah axis abated a short while ago. Meanwhile, fighting is still raging along the al-Dubayyah-Antilyas axis. Artillery shelling of residential areas has died down to some extent."]

ICRC Urges Halt to Combat

NC0402121790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1152 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] issued a statement a short while ago. It declared that, after 5 days of intensive battles, in view of the increasing number of victims, and out of its great humanitarian concern, it urges the combatants to halt all combat activities between 1400 and 1600 today, Sunday, in the following areas of Beirut: 1) The Museum-Franciscan crossing; 2) al-Jumayyil Corniche; 3) Furn al-Shubbak; 4) 'Ayn al-Rummanah; 5) al-Ashrafiyah.

This will enable the committee to proceed with the evacuation of the wounded and provide the hospitals with the necessary medical supplies, of which they are in great need, the statement said.

Awn Radio Cited on Situation

NC0402140190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reports about the military situation are still conflicting, each party claiming to have scored victories over the other and denying the other side's claims.

'Awn sources stated that several attacks have been launched on 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Dawrah since dawn today. The sources said the 'Awn forces advanced on the Antilyas-al-Dubayyah line toward Nahr al-Kalb, as well as on the Nahr al-Mawt-al-Dawrah axis toward al-Karantinah. The sources added that 'Awn's troops destroyed a number of positions of the gunmen in al- Ashrafiyah and al-Karantinah and that they advanced deep into the approaches to 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Ashrafiyah.

In a news bulletin at about 1300, the 'Awn radio said the areas of al-Dubayyah, Antilyas, al-Fanar, al-Dikwanah, al-Bawshariyah, al-Judaydah, Nahr al-Mawt, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, and al-Dawrah are now under the control of 'Awn's forces and that these forces are extending their area of deployment. [passage omitted]

Fighting, Casualties Reported

NC0402152090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn sources said al-Yarzah gangs ['Awn army troops] are in control of al-Dubayyah, Antilyas, Mar Taqla, al-Judaydah, and al-Fanar, and they are advancing toward Nahr al-Kalb. The sources added that they are also advancing on the al-Bawshariyah-Nahr al-Mawt line toward al-Dawrah and that they control the al-Sabtiyah and al-Dikwanah areas.

The 'Awn command issued a communique a little while ago asking the Red Cross to accept bodies of 14 soldiers who died in al-Dubayyah. A military source in the 'Awn command warned the citizens not to use the Ra's al-Khat-al-'Adliyah-al-Tahwitah intersection because all roads to and from this junction are being shelled by the armed men to check the army units' advance. We just learned of fierce hand-to-hand fighting in the al-Dubayyah hills, where attacks and counterattacks are taking place.

So far, International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] sources have not reported whether the ICRC has been able to evacuate the dead and wounded from the eastern areas from 1400 to 1600. The ICRC made an appeal regarding this, to which the parties concerned agreed. However, the continuing clashes and shelling hamper this task.

LF's Ja'ja' Reiterates Stand on Fighting

NC0402193490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Statement issued by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' on 4 February; read by announcer]

[Text] The war to abolish the Lebanese Forces is continuing for the fifth consecutive day. The free areas are witnessing the worst fighting between the comrades in arms who destroyed our society and its institutions, killed innocent citizens, and created a tragic situation on all political, economic, and social levels.

Today I am witnessing bitter fighting between two institutions originally established to defend this society. Today these institutions are turning their guns the wrong way. For over a year and a half, I have been trying to avoid this bitter situation, making one concession after another on all levels, and I have been patient, realizing the magnitude of the catastrophe that will beset us in the event of a horrible confrontation. However, I found myself forced to give orders to defend the Lebanese Forces when they were given two alternatives: to voluntarily abolish themselves or to defend themselves.

Here we are five days after the decision was made to abolish the Lebanese Forces with our factories and homes being demolished and our economy collapsing. The people's suffering is great and indescribable. People are living in shelters and suffering from starvation, thirst, and lack of water. Families have been evicted and are frightened, and students have been stranded in shelters for five days.

Despite all this, no one has learned their lesson or been satisfied. The Lebanese Forces cannot be abolished by a mere resolution. From the beginning we have responded to, accepted, and abided by the cease-fire appeals. However, the other party did not comply, clearly because he resolves to abolish the Lebanese Forces.

Everyone has come to realize the Lebanese Forces' strength, power, position, and size, and the fact that they cannot be abolished. As commander of the Lebanese Forces, I declare that we are willing to fully and immediately comply with the cease-fire in response to all appeals and out of a sense of responsibility. I also hold whoever does not abide by the cease-fire responsible for continuing the fighting, destroying society, and killing innocent people. Eventually, people and history will judge us.

Al-Dubayyah Battle Wages Between 'Awn, LF

LF Claim Victory

NC0402160390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1455 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The al-Dubayyah battle has ended with 'Awn's troops being repulsed. They have disappeared from all parts of the battleground after a hand-to-hand battle that led to the Lebanese Forces' victory over the attackers. Lebanese Forces combatants pursued the remaining attackers, who left behind many wounded, as well as war materiel and ammunition.

To raise its own morale after its defeat, 'Awn's group claimed that 13 members of the Lebanese Forces were killed. This claim is false, like previous claims 'Awn's group made to cover up its defeats.

As for the current situation in the field, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Dawrah are under concentrated shelling.

LF Statement on Battle

NC0402165890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1542 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the fifth branch of the Lebanese Forces' General Staff Command]

[Text] This morning, 4 February, the Lebanese Forces' barracks in al-Dubayyah came under successive attacks by 'Awn groups. All these attacks were repulsed and utterly defeated. 'Awn gathered the remaining group members from the fronts, particularly from the Suq al-Gharb front, as well as his supporters inside the eastern area, in an effort to at least achieve the military objective he failed to attain despite his prior announcement.

At 0500 today, a mechanized battalion from the 10th Brigade, the remaining battalions from the 8th Brigade, a battalion from the 5th Brigade, two commando companies, a strike force, and a tank battalion moved toward al-Dubayyah under intensive artillery cover from three artillery battalions. Our forces deployed in the al-Dubayyah barracks intercepted the attackers and forced them to halt. Then they tried to advance 10 times in the 12 hours from 0500 to 1700. The Lebanese Forces checked all these attempts heroically and valiantly and were involved in hand-to-hand fighting. The attackers suffered grave losses of life and equipment. Ambulances were seen transporting scores of the 'Awn groups' dead and wounded.

'Awn Groups Launch New Attack

NC0402173190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] We have just received the following security report: It seems that 'Awn and his groups have not yet learned their lesson because they launched a new offensive against al-Dubayyah a little while ago. Lebanese Forces there are being extremely heroic in engaging the attackers.

Ja'ja' Interviewed on Offensive

NC0402184790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified correspondent; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Doctor, I hope you are well.

[Ja'ja'] You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Al-Dubayyah was the event of the day today...

[Ja'ja', interrupting] Exactly. Instead of Suq al-Gharb, it was in al-Dubayyah.

[Correspondent] We have been trying to contact you to find out what exactly has taken place.

[Ja'ja'] First of all, I am sorry that the blood, funds, and sweat of the people have been used over the past 50 years to procure the most modern heavy-caliber hardware. I am sorry that such hardware is being used on the streets to destroy Lebanon instead of to reconstruct it. It is also being used to diminish Lebanon's size instead of to expand or to liberate it. [passage omitted]

At any rate, sir, from 0600 to 1600 today, that is, for 10 hours, al-Dubayyah, as if it were Damascus, was subjected to 10 successive attempted attacks by extremely numerous troops. Had these troops been used, they could have liberated Lebanon. They carried out several attempts to capture al-Dubayyah, but they utterly failed. Al-Dubayyah stood fast and will continue to do so. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Can we say that what happened in al-Dubayyah today represents a turning point in the current fighting?

[Ja'ja'] Certainly, certainly, certainly. I said 2 or 3 days ago that I hope, based on the fighting, everyone will realize that it is not possible to annihilate the Lebanese Forces. This has become an established fact. There is no force capable of defeating the Lebanese Forces.

[Correspondent] Doctor, regarding the cease-fire, Voice of Lebanon was contacted by many people demanding a serious cease-fire. This issue was raised at the papal nuncio's residence. You have responded to this request. Why is the cease-fire not holding?

[Ja'ja'] Because they wanted to capture al-Dubayyah. They intensified their attacks on it immediately after we agreed to observe the cease-fire. This is very regrettable. They want to finish off the Lebanese Forces. But there is no force in the whole world that can abolish the Lebanese Forces. Nor is there any force which can abolish freedom, words, or the people. [passage omitted]

Finally, the crisis should come to an end. We cannot accept having the Lebanese Forces abolished. Nor do we accept that freedom can be abolished in Lebanon. We will not accept dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Franjiyah Radio on Developments in Eastern Areas

NC0402172790 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] As of 1600 today, various information and media sources were unanimous in reporting that the Army [under General 'Awn] has achieved progress on the Antilyas-al-Dubayyah front. While the media of the so-called Lebanese Forces have admitted that hand-to-hand battles have taken place in the al- Dubayyah hills, General 'Awn's mouthpiece radio emphasized that the Army is now in the rocky area at Nahr al-Kalb after having taken control of al-Dubayyah.

Meanwhile, the Army command has issued a statement calling on the International Red Cross Committee to get the bodies of 14 Lebanese Forces combatants who fell in al-Dubayyah.

In another development, the Voice of the Homeland radio has reported that the Army has achieved tangible progress on the Nahr al-Mawt-al-Dawrah line in the direction of al-Karantinah. The radio said that emplacements belonging to the so-called Lebanese Forces in al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantinah have been destroyed. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, columns of black smoke continue to be seen over the eastern area as a result of the fires devouring residential areas and public utilities.

In the meantime, a responsible source in the Lebanese Army has accused the so-called Lebanese Forces of burning the houses of late President Camille Sham'un and his son Engineer Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, after storming them.

Gunmen of the so-called Lebanese Forces have also burned the offices of the AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI magazine, which is owned by Jubran Tuwaini, as well as the offices of the LISAN AL-HAL newspaper owned by Roger Iddih.

General 'Awn's mouthpiece radio has accused the so-called Lebanese Forces of having physically liquidated and executed some Army members who were captured by these forces.

Artillery shelling of the western sector of the capital and its Southern Suburb was resumed at 1515. It has been reported that shells fell on the airport road, hitting a civilian car and instantly killing its three passengers. An earlier shelling of the areas of Sfayr and al-Shiyah left 13 wounded.

Al-Hirawi Appeals for World Assistance

NC0402123190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today addressed an appeal to the countries of the world and the humanitarian organizations, asking for all possible humanitarian and medical aid for Lebanon in view of the tragic conditions which the citizens are experiencing. They are living in the worst state of anxiety, hardship, and need, and are deprived of food, water, electricity, and medical care, he said. They are living in conditions which no one with a conscience can accept.

President al-Hirawi stressed the need to speed up the dispatch of such assistance in view of the deteriorating situation. He also stressed the need for assistance in achieving a truce to enable help to reach the wounded, to remove the corpses, and to supply vital services to the citizens, who have been kept inside their shelters for fear of their lives.

Al-Hirawi To Intervene if Fighting Continues

JN0402082690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that he would like to visit some Arab countries including the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today, President al-Hirawi said that what is taking place in East Beirut is a war started by he who views this area, and every area, as farmland belonging to him. He warned that he will order intervention in favor of all citizens if the situation continues as it is right now. He announced his rejection of the presence of any dictator and described the al-Ta'if agreement as the beginning of salvation. He also criticized those who rejected this agreement and failed to provide any alternative to it.

President al-Hirawi expressed satisfaction with the stand taken by the United States in support of the legitimate Lebanese Government and indicated that the implementation of Resolution No. 425, which calls for Israeli troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon requires the equipping and rehabilitation of the Lebanese Army in order to send it to southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese president said that it is his duty to visit the countries making up the tripartite committee to thank them for the efforts they have made for Lebanon. He added: I would ask any future Arab summit to continue to support Lebanon on both the regional and international levels, as we are in dire need of political and military assistance to build our army and security forces so that we might be able to extend our sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil.

The Lebanese president said that Lebanon will draw up a comprehensive development plan for all Lebanese areas. He added that this plan will be balanced in that the interests of all Lebanese areas will be equally taken into account. He went on to say: In light of this, we need the brothers' assistance so that we may recover from this setback and be able to rebuild the state, provide services, and improve facilities to Lebanese citizens.

The Lebanese president indicated that Lebanon was the arena for any inter-Arab differences. He added that the Lebanese heaved a sigh of relief whenever there was a warming of inter-Arab ties. He went on to say: We welcome any Arab initiative that would bring reconciliation. We hope that the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement will bring good things to us.

President Al-Hirawi affirmed that the circumstances through which Lebanon is passing require a firm leadership to tackle Lebanon's difficult situation. He added that this difficult task will be accomplished if the president has the proper capabilities, loyal aides, and unified citizens.

The Lebanese president said: I am not afraid. Had I been afraid, I would neither have run in the presidential elections nor accepted the presidential post. I have not left Lebanon for a single minute for 15 years. I am saying this about myself. As for others, they know that I am telling the truth. If I were to reunify Lebanon, the attainment of security and stability on the entire Lebanese soil would be my greatest accomplishment.

Deputies in Paris Appeal to Al-Hirawi

NC0402181290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Fifteen Lebanese deputies residing in Paris have addressed an appeal to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the government, and the legal army to quickly intervene in order to end the bloodbath in the eastern area. Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah, conveying the appeal to AFP, stressed that the deputies are calling for an immediate and total cease-fire because the lives of citizens are in danger, especially those of women, children, and aged people.

Al-Hirawi Responds to Appeal

JN0402192790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Antoine Abu-Samrah—live]

[Text] [Abu-Samrah] Mr President?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes.

[Abu-Samrah] Hello, hello, Mr. President?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes, yes, I hear you.

[Abu-Samrah] We have the honor to have you as our guest at the end of our evening cast from Radio Monte Carlo. There is a new development in the call made by Lebanese deputies in Paris. They say that they are

addressing an urgent appeal to President Al-Hirawi and his government, and to the army of the legitimate authorities to intervene quickly to halt the bloodbath in the eastern sector of Beirut. Mr President, what is your reply? Are you ready to intervene?

[Al-Hirawi] With respect to the deputies' call, I wish that they had a place in the eastern sector from which to intervene in their capacity as parliamentarians. However, after what has taken place in East Beirut, I believe that neither they nor I can intervene at present unless the request to do so comes from the inhabitants of the eastern sector of Beirut; from our sons who live there. I thank the deputies for their appeal. I addressed an appeal this morning to all fraternal and friendly countries asking them to intervene to halt the bloodshed in East Beirut, which is bleeding our hearts. Over the past three days, I have been trying to put an end to what is taking place in the eastern sector, something that is unprecedented in the past 15 years of the war.

[Abu-Samrah] Mr President, in an interview with a French radio station, you said you were waiting for an appeal by Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja', or from those who are with him. This is what the radio station cited you as saying verbatim. Whom do you mean by others than Samir Ja'Ja'?

[Al-Hirawi] Mr Abu-Samrah, I deeply regret to say that the radio station, or what has been communicated to you, has been distorted. I said I was waiting for an appeal from the Lebanese citizens in my capacity as president of the Republic, and that the government is ready to intervene in the interest of all Lebanese and Lebanon to end their tragedy. We are in the process of initiating a peace process, not a march to war. The time has come to forcefully tell the usurper of power to step down from his post so that the government can end the bloodshed.

As for the Lebanese Forces, the Al-Ta'if agreement explicitly states that there is a security plan and that after the government implements the plan, the role of all militias should be terminated within six months. The usurper of power wants to terminate the presence of the Lebanese Forces. Their presence cannot be terminated through a bloodbath in the eastern sector of Beirut. Where is he in terms of liberating Lebanon? Does he want to liberate Lebanon from its sons who reside in the eastern sector of Beirut? Does he want to liberate Lebanon from all that the Lebanese state possesses, such as the infrastructure for which we are responsbile? Is it possible for a capital like Beirut and its suburbs to live without water and electricity, with hospitals full and calling for help? We have had enough talk. He should step down from the post he has usurped. The state, particularly our Lebanese Army—which we seek to preserve with all our strength—should be under the new command entrusted to General Emile Lahhud. This army was formed to defend the citizens, not to shell and kill them. There are hundreds of dead, and there are thousands wounded, not to mention the demolition of houses and the fires that broke out in Beirut yesterday and today. We seem to be living in the era of Genghis Khan. This is inconceivable and we will never accept it.

[Abu-Samrah] Your Excellency the President: You say you are waiting for an appeal from the Lebanese people. You know that the population in the eastern districts now huddling in shelters only want you to intervene to halt hostilities. If you should decide to step in, will you intervene militarily, Mr President?

[Al-Hirawi] To begin with, I will try to stay away from military action, since such a course means that a third party has entered the eastern district, either with our own forces or through recourse to other forces. Under no circumstances will I allow a bloodbath. I want him to step down, and I think that all officers and men of the Lebanese Army are fed up with what has happened.

[Abu-Samrah] Some Lebanese officers and soldiers are said to have abandoned General 'Awn and sought refuge in the western districts. How many have sought refuge, given the scarcity and inaccuracy of news on the subject?

[Al-Hirawi] No more than 200 officers and soldiers have defected to General Emile Lahhud.

[Abu-Samrah] Your Excellency the President: You are calling on Gen 'Awn to step down, but apparently Gen 'Awn is sticking to his position and is adamant on staying in the B'abda Palace. If there should be no change, that is if Gen 'Awn remains determined to stay put, how do you see yourself convincing 'Awn to change his mind, given your exclusion of the military option? What kind of arguments are you going to use?

[Al-Hirawi] I would like to appeal through your station, which I respect, to the Army officers and men to heed the orders of the legitimate government rather than those of the power usurper. They must be fully aware that their first duty is to be bound by their oath of allegiance to the homeland and not to a single individual who has set himself up as a prince ruling over them.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you, Your Excellency the President. Before we conclude the interview, I would like to make a suggestion: Our radio is accessible to Gen 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' to air their views. Should they decide to avail themselves of this offer, we are prepared to listen to them. Thank you.

[Al-Hirawi] I have a comment to make on that offer. I am not a party. I am the head of state of all the Lebanese and all of Lebanon...

[Abu-Samrah, interrupting] But, Your Excellency the President, we would like to know whether Gen 'Awn will heed your appeal.

[Al-Hirawi] Let him listen to my appeal. And if he is serious about his oath of allegiance to the Army and flag of Lebanon, let him vacate his position for the legitimate government so it can stop the bloodbath.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you, Your Excellency the President...

[Al-Hirawi, interrupting] Dr Samir Ja'Ja' will heed the appeal, because he has frequently sought a cease-fire, but was rebuffed.

[Abu-Samrah] Your Excellency the President: Have you anything more to add?

[Al-Hirawi] That is all I have to say. I am working day and night to halt this bloodbath. It is unfortunate. No human being will condone what is taking place in the eastern districts.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you.

[Al-Hirawi] Thank you.

Hizballah Derides Al-Hirawi Governmment

NC2601223190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 90

[Station political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

What the new regime under Ilyas al-Hirawi is attempting is to have a state regardless of its shape, or a just a state regardless of the cost. This is clear from the regime's adherence to excuses and its disregard for some facts and truths. We are saying this because of the regime's latest new zealousness. It has promised to turn West Beirut into an oasis of peace that would astound the world. We had hoped to hear Al-Hirawi saying that he wants to turn all Lebanon into an oasis of peace because he is the elected president of all Lebanon, not because he was chosen to only govern West Beirut after having despaired of governing the other areas.

We are not against turning West Beirut into an oasis of peace. On the contrary, this is our hope and ultimate joy. However, the first stage of bold action should not be in West Beirut but should start in B'abda itself. The regime lacks dignity and will continue to lack it as as long as its first center in B'abda remains usurped. We are not against turning West Beirut into an oasis of peace and security that would astound the entire world, but to a great extent the issue is similar to an attempt by the regime to prove its strength and ability. But it cannot do so as long as the first test of taking over B'abda palace and removing the 'Awn obstacle has not been met.

We are not against turning West Beirut into an oasis of security and stability. But it seems to us that this decision is a response to a U.S. recommendation. Washington believes that having failed to solve the Michel 'Awn problem, the new regime must start by imposing its authority where it is present—in the nationalist and Islamic areas. It also appears to us that the decision to turn West Beirut into an oasis of security and peace and the talk about dissolving the militias are attempts to implement U.S. policy without Washington's making any concessions and without even bothering itself with exerting pressure to remove 'Awn.

Dissolving the militias is only one clause among many in the al-Ta'if agreement. But dissolving the militias is neither the first of these clauses nor the main obstacle. The implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement can only start in the area where the loudest opposition to it is voiced. This is in the eastern area, and is against 'Awn and the architects of partitionist and federal plans.

The al-Ta'if accord, if not dead already, is at best in a position of self defense. The partitionist and federal plans are a locally coordinated onslaught, backed by outside forces, to abort the accord. A person who is in a position of self defense has no right to attack other positions because there is no reason for al-Ta'if and the regime to be courageous in making initiatives about West Beirut while being cowardly and retreating when it comes to the eastern area. Promises of security and peace should not deceive anyone. It is true that our people need security and peace, but who can say that the new regime can provide this security when there are these unbalanced positions toward West Beirut and the eastern areas?

This security they are promising us is similar to the country's security during the rule of Amin al-Jumayyil. Partisan and official forces in the eastern area attacked the Muslim area under the pretext of security. We lived in slavery in return for the security they imposed on us. Who says that security comes before anything else? We say that certain things are needed before security. There is the need for accord, agreement, and the removal of all phenomena that impede and obstruct. There is also a need to eliminate all the plans that conflict with the concept of uniting Lebanon. The federalism, the slogan of the political season in the eastern area, is a poisoned arrow targeted at the heart of al-Ta'if accord. This accord, despite being weak and defaced, is not yet accepted by the eastern area. So how do you want to rule the Muslims' area with the al-Ta'if accord?

This ridicule and belittling of Muslims compel us to say that the bad situation we are in was caused by our acceptance, even though we were not that convinced, and our going along with the accord was so that it could not be said that the Muslims or the nationalists were the ones to break it.

But what is next? 'Awn is continuing his intransigence while we continue to be flexible and tolerant. But we fear that this Maronite, who has come to teach us our religion, will in the end drive us to the abyss. Have the Muslims become so low that non-Muslims are appointed their overseers to teach them politics and how to read and write? What does a person who accepts a Maronite as head of all Lebanon say when there are two Maronite heads? Are not the Muslims ashamed to say before other Muslims, if asked about their rulers, that a Maronite is

governing in Beirut, a second one in the mountain area, a third in al-Biqa', a fourth in the South, and possibly a fifth and a sixth one?

The latest so-called good reports say that units from the Lebanese Forces—the Zahlah branch—have moved to the South, specifically to Iqlim al-Tuffah, to preserve Lebanon's Arabism and nationalism and to fight partition and settlement [of Palestinians]. But where are these units and their leaders and who has invited them to fight the Zionist occupation of the South?

Nowadays, we are hearing reports from Azerbaijan. We can probably say that Muslims there are the last to be heard from. Can't we follow their example? They are challenging the Red Army and the second mightiest world power after the United States. Their bodies and blood have become the price for independence. They have not spared anything and have sacrificed all that is precious. Can't Lebanon's Muslims be like Azerbaijan's?

Ba'th Official, Iraqi Kurdish Party Leader Meet

JN3101154490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Jalal al-Talbani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in Iraq.

Talks centered on the latest developments in the Arab arena in general, Iraq in particular, and the role of organizations and parties in various Arab countries in confronting challenges facing the struggle of the Arab masses and the liberation forces in the region.

Al-Talbani reviewed Saddam Husayn's continuing indiscriminate practices against Iraqi citizens and strugglers in the north and south of the country, including murder, mass extermination, displacement, and eviction.

Other issues of mutual interest between the Socialist Ba'th Party and the PUK also were discussed.

Columnist on 'Fate of U.S. Bases' in World

JN0502084290 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Feb 90 p 9

[From "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column: "The Fate of U.S. Bases" by Nadyah Dumyati]

[Text] Many countries have been awaiting the 1990's, when treaties on U.S. military bases and installations, spread throughout the world, are to expire.

With the beginning of this year, the United States began making decisions to close some of its military bases inside and outside the country. Last week, it announced it would close 126 military bases and installations inside the country. Official silence meanwhile still shrouds the fate of the U.S. bases abroad, estimated at 1,600 bases in 36 countries, in which one quarter of the U.S. Forces is deployed. These are bases for expansion and aggression and are a continuous source of tension and confrontation.

The phenomenon of bases in the U.S. strategy was able to hold fast in the face of many developments since the beginning of this century. This phenomenon, however, has become exposed to the winds of change that threaten to close some of these bases as a step toward their final removal.

We do not exaggerate if we say in the coming years—until the year 2000—the U.S. bases spread throughout all continents will be removed. This poses a challenge to the U.S. military foreign policy. Starting with the last years of the 20th Century, the United States is finding itself facing problems challenging continuation of its bases in Spain, Greece, Portugal, Turkey, Britain, Australia, the Philippines, and Japan.

There is no doubt this administration is watching with great concern the escalating opposition to its bases in these countries. What increases its concern is the governments of these countries are going along with the tide of popular demands to end the treaties concerning these bases or are being forced to follow suit. This has prompted Washington to bypass the decisions of these countries and announce closing some bases, as in Greece when the United States announced it would close two of its four bases.

This decision, however, came after long and difficult talks between the two parties prior to this step, which will be followed by similar steps to close remaining bases in Greece. This took place after Washington had withdrawn 72 fighter planes from the Torrejon base in Spain after the pressure it faced during long talks resulting from popular and governmental demands.

In Britain, the opposition still demands closing U.S. bases and the removing nuclear arms from them.

This is what is taking place in the farthest north of the Western world. But, what about the southern part of the world?

In Australia, the opposition is blowing a strong wind against the three bases participating in the Star Wars program. The more difficult problem facing the White House staff, however, is the bases in Asia, that is, in the Philippines, where the people are struggling for removal of the two air bases, considered the most important U.S. bases in the world. Washington does not rule out closing these bases this year if the ongoing talks fail.

After these developments, the question remains: Will the Americans stand by with folded arms before the phenomenon of expelling them from the paradise of bases? Or will they begin searching for new positions to compensate for their worn-out spider's web?

Vice President Returns; Lebanese Withdrawal Proposed

JN0302155690 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 1-2 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpts] Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad returned to Damascus a few days ago from Paris.

His family also followed him, and this gives the impression Rif'at al-Asad will stay for a long time in Damascus. This return coincides with convening of the Ba'th Party regional congress, which has been postponed several times until it became necessary to convene it to discuss accumulated issues that need resolving. [passage omitted]

Informed sources said there is a strong current in power supporting President al-Asad's position on the Syrian presence in Lebanon. This current reinforces its position with the need for Damascus to benefit from past mistakes and set a timetable to withdraw from Lebanon.

The sources stressed there is a strong approach that will ask the congress to set a six-month period for withdrawal from Lebanon in coordination with the Tripartite Arab Committee, and the Syrian leadership will not oppose the existence of alternative deterrent Arab force to assume the responsibility shouldered by the Syrians.

These sources did not rule out that during the next Arab summit on Lebanon, President al-Asad would propose a new Syrian position on setting a timetable for withdrawal from Lebanon to be accompanied by a reasonable solution to General Michel 'Awn's problem—a solution to reunite Lebanon and to meet the demands of all parties without exception.

In their statement to AL-SIYASAH, the Arab sources pointed out Rif'at al-Asad will be in charge of national security, and he will not have a powerful role—at least not within the Armed Forces.

Damascus Radio Views Renewed Beirut Hostilities

JN0102163090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In addition to cutting off water supplies to West Beirut, the rebellious officer Michel 'Awn has ordered destruction of the water canals in a transparent bid to whip up tension and consecrate the division between the two parts of the Lebanese capital.

Seasoned observers do not find such reckless behavior surprising. The insurgent general's lust for power is such he couldn't care less even if Lebanon itself goes under.

'Awn's deployment of the Army in East Beirut to liquidate the Phalangists and their forces is yet another indication his megalomania has reached new heights: 'Awn remains deaf to any voice that does not echo his; he wants the eastern districts to remain his personal turf and a scene for his repressive, dictatorial practices. The indignities inflicted on Patriarch Sfayr, the manner in which 'Awn barred Maronite deputies from returning to their homes, and the wrecking of property of quite a few of them still are fresh in our memories. Nor have we forgotten the murder of the martyr President Rene Mu'awwad, attempts to sow death and devastation in West Beirut and northern Lebanon, and the rebellious general's suppression of the the news media.

The present hostilities against the Phalangist forces prove 'Awn is going all-out in his destructive, criminal scheme and is capitalizing on the forbearance of others to deal a blow resulting in establishment of his undisputed authority.

There is no doubt the Phalangist Party's failure to take up its portfolios in the reconciliation cabinet on the plea of a desire to avoid incurring 'Awn's wrath—despite Party President Sa'adah's endorsement of the al-Ta'if agreement—only has had negative effects.

'Awn has construed the Phalangist Party's stance as encouragement for him to persist in his insurgency and defiance of the Lebanese people and legitimate government and the reconciliation efforts, and as sanction for him to murder Lebanese figures that dare say no to his separatist, partitionist projects. 'Awn thus proceeded with suppressing freedoms, tightening his hold on the population, intimidating spiritual leaders, and spending state funds toward promotion of his personal ambitions. He has laundered tens of millions of dollars into foreign bank accounts and seized 50 billion Lebanese liras to distribute to his men. Just today he declared he has the final say in the eastern districts, and no party other than his secessionist, conspiratorial clique will be allowed to maintain a presence there.

Whoever orders artillery bombing of his countrymen—as 'Awn did last March— withholds water supplies from them, robs them of their money, and impedes progress toward the stability, unity, and affluence of his country, will unscrupulously commit any crime. The population of East and West Beirut have paid dearly for 'Awn's madness and lust for power and blood at the altar of his criminal psyche.

What is unfolding now only is a prelude to a major conflagration that will target the legitimate forces and aspirations of the Lebanese for unity, peace, brotherhood, and coexistence, especially given the success of the security plan about to be implemented in West Beirut would jeopardize the general's aim to turn the Eastern districts into a ghetto detached from the rest of the nation.

If a lesson is to be learned, it is Lebanon belongs to all the Lebanese, and only through the cohesiveness of all its citizens in a climate of justice, egalitarianism, freedom, and equal opportunity, insulated from sectarian tensions, can the country stand on its feet.

There can be no freedom for East Beirut and its population outside the framework of the country's unity and the sovereignty of the law and constitution. Nor does the Eastern district have a future other than under the umbrella of the legitimate government and by backing its sincere efforts to end sedition and put the country on the road to salvation.

Direct Dialing Service With U.S. Begins

JN0302160690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 2 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Damascus, QNA—Direct telephone service started yesterday between Syria and the United States.

An official source at the Syrian Telecommunications Authority said this service will enable Arab expatriates in the United States to call their families directly without having to do this through other countries, as in the past.

India

Spokesman Denies 'Fresh Troops' in Kashmir

BK0202145190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] India today denied that it has deployed fresh troops along the line of control with Pakistan in Kashmir. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman described the news agency reports from Islamabad as absolutely incorrect.

Meanwhile, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, emphasized that while India is deeply committed to peace, any secessionist agitation supported from outside will be dealt with appropriately. Mr Gujral made these remarks during his talks with the visiting Iraqi transport and communications minister, Mr Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, held in New Delhi today. Mr Gujral stressed that it would be wrong to view the happenings in Kashmir from a religious point of view. Mr Gujral apprised the Iraqi minister of the initiative taken by India to improve relations with its neighbors.

Journalist Reports No Deployment

BK0402085290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] There is no deployment of troops along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir. Our Jammu correspondent, Ajit Singh, who toured the 200-km-long portion of the border between the Ravi and the Chenab Rivers yesterday with some newsmen, reports that life is absolutely normal. Farmers are working in their fields right up to the border. The BSF [Border Security Force] manning the border told newsmen that they have not seen any concentration of troops on the Pakistani side of the border either.

Singh: India To Deal Firmly With 'Misadventure'

BK0402031090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has said that India will deal firmly with misadventure of any foreign power in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the public meeting organized to observe the 21st death anniversary of Annadurai in Madras last evening, Mr Singh said eighty crore Indians from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari will stand behind the government to ward off any such misadventure. He said the government is committed to improving relations with its neighbors, including Pakistan. He expressed the hope that Islamabad will change its stand on Kashmir. He warned that India will give a befitting reply if any neighbor tries to fish in trouble waters.

The prime minister said the government has started tackling the problems in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in right earnest. He also made it clear that solutions will have to come from the people in these states.

On relations with Sri Lanka, Mr Singh said India is awaiting a positive response from Colombo to finalize the friendship treaty between the two countries. He hopes Sri Lanka will fulfill its commitment made in various agreements. Mr Singh also hopes that the Tamils will be ensured safety and security and that their democratic aspirations be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Premier Says 'Threat' To Be Met 'With Courage'

BK0502033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has declared that any threat to the country from across the border would be met with courage and determination. Addressing public meetings in Cochin last night, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh has said the Indian Army and its people are capable of defending the honor of the nation at any cost if any country plans an attempt on its territorial integrity.

On Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Singh said his government is trying to solve the problem in these states through national reconciliation and consensus, but, at the same time, there will be no compromise on terrorism and secessionism.

Mr. Singh announced that the proposed interstate council will be formed after the coming assembly elections. He said a bill on labor participation and management will be introduced in the monsoon session of parliament. All India Radio's Cochin correspondent, Jacob Abraham, reports that Mr. Singh also announced that steps to revise the support price for dry coconut will be expedited.

Gujral: Pakistan on 'Confrontationist Path'

BK0302164490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] In an exclusive interview with PTI TV, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, has expressed the hope that the Pakistani leadership would take steps to reduce the tension in the region.

[Begin Gujral recording] It is unfortunate that when we are taking initiatives, far-reaching initiatives, the Pakistani response has been negative. For the last 2 weeks particularly, I noticed that Pakistan has chosen to go on the confrontationist path. I know that even today better sense will prevail and the saner elements in Pakistan will pull back the people going toward this confrontationist path. The posture of Pakistan has naturally caused us anxiety and concern, and we are keen that the world, broad world, should know that the threatening postures of Pakistan are in a way trying to create a situation of tensions and confrontation in this region. [end recording]

Gujral Warns Against 'Military Adventurism'

BK0402153090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 4 (AFP)—Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral vowed Sunday that India would defend Kashmir whatever the cost, and warned Pakistan against "military adventurism."

"Any attempt to disintegrate Kashmir or for that matter any part of the country would be thwarted, irrespective of cost and consequence," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Mr. Gujral as saying in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Mr. Gujral accused Pakistan of "externalising its internal compulsions" and warned Islamabad against "any military adventurism on the Indian borders," PTI said.

"India wants peace and harmony with neighbours, but one must not misunderstand these peace gestures as our weakness," he was quoted as saying in a speech delivered at a seminar.

Mr. Gujral, whose statement was the latest in a war of words between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, said Islamabad had mistaken Muslim unrest in the valley to be an upheaval. He described events as "agitation."

Protest and agitation were part of the democratic process, he said.

"The sensitive democracy absorbs such agitations without letting them jeopardize the country's territorial integrity," the minister said.

He said Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan had, during talks here last month, conveyed a message to India which he described as "less than peaceful." But he did not elaborate.

Mr. Gujral meanwhile affirmed that India respected Pakistan's unity and integrity and wanted friendly relations, saying citizens of both countries desired peace.

Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars, has been the main bone of contention between the neighbours ever since the territory's Hindu maharajah decided to accede to India following the subcontinent's independence in 1947.

Anti-India Muslim unrest in the valley has left more than 100 people dead by unofficial count since the start of January.

Demonstrators Protest Pakistani 'Interference'

BK0302161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Janata Dal workers staged a demonstration in front of the United Nations office in Jammu today protesting against the interference by Pakistan in the internal affairs of India. They submitted a memorandum to the UN representative demanding immediate action to stop Pakistan from inciting terrorism in Kashmir.

The workers of the state unit of Shiv Sena [Hindu political party] also staged a demonstration in Jammu protesting against the anti-India propaganda by Pakistani television and radio.

Volunteers of the Delhi Yuva Janata Dal [Janata Dal youth wing] demonstrated in front of the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi today against Islamabad's interference in the internal affairs of India. They included a large number of Muslim women. In a memorandum handed over to the embassy officials, the Yuva Janata Dal asked Pakistan to refrain from its anti-India activities.

Party Leaders Criticize Pakistani 'Meddling'

BK0302150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Senior leaders of four major political parties today criticized the continuous meddling by Pakistan in India's internal affairs. The leaders belonging to the Janata Dal, the Congress-I, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the CPI [Communist Party of India] met in Amritsar and expressed concern over the training and arms supply by Pakistan to terrorists. They called upon the people of Punjab to face the challenge unitedly as they did during the India-Pakistan wars.

The political leaders also called upon the center to take effective measures to contain terrorism. They said efforts should continue to evolve a national consensus for a political solution to the Punjab problem.

Delhi, Islamabad To Release Captured Fishermen

BK0202160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to release the detained fishermen and fishing vessels captured by either side. An agreement to this effect was reached at the end of the 3-day official-level talks which began in New Delhi on Wednesday [31 January]. Both sides have agreed to complete the repatriation process by the end of March.

Kashmir Revokes Journalists' Expulsion Orders

BK0202121190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 2 (AFP)—The Kashmir state government Friday revoked expulsion orders served on two Indian correspondents working for international news agencies a day after declaring them a threat to public safety.

Correspondents Anil Penna of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE and Dilip Ganguly of the ASSOCIATED

PRESS were told by a senior state government official in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, that they could stay on.

Mr. Penna said by telephone from Srinagar that no reason was given for either the expulsion orders or their revocation.

Both Mr. Penna and Mr. Ganguly were Thursday evening served with expulsion orders under the State Public Safety Act and confined to their hotel rooms with a police guard posted outside to prevent them from going out.

Policemen had then said that they would have to leave Srinagar by Friday.

The order on Mr. Penna, 30, issued in the name of Srinagar's District Magistrate Ghulam Abbas, said his further presence "is adjudged prejudicial to the security of the state."

The state government official Friday told them that they could also go out during curfew breaks to report on the situation.

Mr. Penna and Mr. Ganguly are the last two journalists representing the foreign media in Kashmir after a number of foreign correspondents were ordered out of the Muslim-majority border state last week.

Indians working for international news agencies had been allowed to stay.

In New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said earlier Friday that he would try to "get things organised" to decide the fate of Mr. Penna and Mr. Ganguly.

The Foreign Correspondents Association of South Asia said here earlier Friday after a meeting that it was "deeply distressed" at the actions taken by the federally administered Kashmir government.

More than 100 people have been killed by unofficial count this year in Kashmir in continuing violence linked to the Muslim militant campaign to secede from India.

1 Killed in Srinagar; Kashmir Situation 'Peaceful'

BK0202150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one person was shot dead this morning by extremists in (Kartali) Muhalla area of Srinagar city. An official spokesman told our correspondent that the victim was called out of his house by some unidentified gunmen before they shot him dead.

The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has condemned the dastardly act and announced an ex gratia relief of one lakh rupees to the bereaved family.

According to agency reports, tension prevails following the killing in the city. The overall situation elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley was peaceful.

Police Kill 2 in Sopor Town

BK0202160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] In Jammu and Kashmir, two persons were killed and six injured in police firing this afternoon in Sopor Town. An official spokesman told our correspondent that some unidentified gunmen fired at police and threw petrol bombs. The police had to return the fire in which the killings took place.

In Srinagar City, on person was shot dead this morning by extremists in Karpali Muhalla area. [passage omitted]

Subversive Hideouts Raided

BK0302130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Authorities in Kashmir Valley today carried out raids on about a dozen suspected hideouts of subversives and gathered a number of clues. Officials declined to divulge any details, saying that it cannot be done at this stage for security reasons.

The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has again cautioned the people against giving shelter to any subversive. Meanwhile, the situation throughout the valley continue to remain peaceful. No major untoward incidents were reported today. Hundreds of people have been meeting the state governor at Srinagar to seek redress of their grievances.

It has been officially stated that sufficient stocks of essential commodities are now available in the Kashmir Valley. Two hundred trucks carrying rice, sugar, wheat, kerosene, and petrol reached Srinagar during the last 48 hours for distribution at various places.

Situation 'Peaceful' 4 Feb

BK0402145990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation remained peaceful throughout the Kashmir Valley today and no untoward incident was reported. Day curfew has been lifted in all the towns of the valley.

The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, sanctioned 60 lakh rupees for the improvement of housing facilities for policemen in (Belina) police colony and another 60 lakhs for police housing in (Maihuma) and Ram Munshi Bagh. He also visited downtown areas in the city and various police stations.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Gun Down 7 Bus Passengers

BK0502022890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down seven passengers of a state roadways bus near Sahebpur village of Amritsar District this evening. Several others were injured. Police said three Punjab police constables accompanying the passengers as security guards were among those killed.

The bus was on its way to Amritsar from Patti. Eight to 10 armed terrorists stopped the bus at about 1800 in the evening and began firing indiscriminately. Five persons died on the spot and two on way to hospital. The terrorists later escaped in a Maruti car parked on the highway.

Elsewhere in the state, six persons, including two terrorists, have been killed since last night.

Iran

UK Said Supporting U.S. by Deporting Iranians

LD0302184190 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN said today that the British Government has issued deportation notices to nine Iranian students without giving any evidence of the legitimacy of its decision to do so.

It said the British Home Office has said that the continued stay in Britain of the nine Iranian students is potentially a threat to the British Government.

It said the timing and manner of the British Government's move betrays its malicious nature.

London seems to have made the decision solely in order to show sympathetic feelings with the Foreign Relations Sub-Committee of the U.S. Senate, and with rumours by certain elements in the European Parliament on alleged Iranian involvement in international terrorism, said the daily.

It noted that the decision of the British Government in relation with the group of nine comes on the first anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's fatwa for death penalty against the apostate Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses.'

KAYHAN believes that London wants to intimidate its Muslim citizens of similar fate which may await them, and perhaps for the purpose of suppressing the call for justice by the Muslim community in Britain.

Paper Assails U.S. Move on POW Release

LD0502092290 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—The TEHRAN TIMES Monday termed the U.S. design to call for release of Iraqi and Iranian POWs out of the framework of the resolution 598 as a move to undermine the resolution.

"As things stand at present it maybe predicted that the United States and its allies will launch a dump-resolution-598 campaign to block Iran's peace efforts," said the daily in its editorial.

The English daily added that the "so-called champion of democracy" is apparently suggesting the proposal on humanitarian grounds.

"No one however is opposed to humanitarian moves and considerations, but what can ever possibly be more humanitarian than going for the uprooting of causes of war through establishing a stable peace using the U.N. as the sponsoring agency?" asked the daily.

The editorial stressed that the release of POWs out of the context of the resolution will loosen all its validity and makes the things more complicated leaving many war-related issues unresolved.

"The result will be only an armed peace and a half-hearted ceasefire in a potentially very explosive situation," said the daily adding that it would inevitably lead to the perpetuating of the Iraq-Iran crisis.

It added that after the release of POWs out of the framework of the resolution, Iranian territories will remain under Iraqi occupation and the Baghdad regime will use the troop withdrawal as an issue to blackmail Iran.

"In that case the U.S. and Britain will certainly exploit the whole episode as their winning card to settle political scores with Iran," it said.

In conclusion the daily turned to Iraq's refusal to register all Iranian POWs and said Iraq has only registered one third of the over 50,000 Iranian POWs it holds.

"Even the Red Cross International has not been able to solve the issue of the number of Iranian POWs in Iraq and facilitate practical framework for the release of the disabled POWs," it said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Fajr Speech 1 Feb

LD0102163290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0744 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Khomeyni's Shrine in Behesht-e Zahra—live]

[Excerpts] You have proved this many times before. Your slogan is true, it has been fully proved. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to

God. May God's salutations and mercy be upon the apostle of God and his immaculate scion. I would like to welcome the honorable guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to the holy shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic. I am sincerely grateful to you the noble ummah, the great, loyal, patient and steadfast nation; and I offer my congratulations on the anniversary of the immam of the ummah's return to this land of the lord of the era [hidden Shiite imam] after a lengthy exile; and I congratulate you on the 10 Days of Dawn, the anniversary of your revolution.

About today and the 10 days; the more we wish to say on this occasion, the more we realize how difficult it is to describe the glory and honor of this period. One of the particular features of this occasion which I wish to stress—as this is the entire subject of my speech—is this revolution's particular feature of relying on God and on the people. This was also a feature of His Holiness the Imam. This is the secret behind the success and victories too. One of the issues we can explain on the imam's return to our country, on a day like today, is an issue which is very worthy of deep study. How did His Holiness the imam decide 11 years ago to return to Tehran under the circumstances when the people were not in charge of the government?

The police, the Army, and all the military and security forces and all security resources were in the hands of the enemy. From the point of view of a materialist and calculating observer, Khomeyni's action does not fit into the logic of the politics and conduct of revolutions. From the point of view of world observers, the risks to the imam's life, in this trip, were very high. The imam insisted and persisted in leaving the secure place he had in Paris from where he guided the revolution and guided the people with his remarks and in flying over to arrive at an airport, the control of which was in the hands of the government of the time with which the imam was at variance.

He crossed some countries where the governments there neither accepted the revolution nor the imam, and where the climate was, as a rule, insecure for the leader of the revolution.

The question is how a leader—a leader who was guardian to the blood of thousands of martyrs and tortured and imprisoned people whose revolution he wanted to fulfill—placed his own life in danger and in this way also risked the revolution as well. The second point is how the people granted him their consent; a people that loved the imam as dearly as their own lives; whose heart longed for moments when they could catch a glimpse and sight of their imam. How these people consented to the imam of the ummah entering the country under these circumstances, ignoring the risks involved and dangers to his life. This was the chief question being asked by world observers at the time and still remains the chief question today. I don't know if you can find in the histories of revolutions an arena in which, under conditions when a revolution is on the point of achieving victory, its enemies are armed to the teeth and are full of grudges and anger, having showed their fierceness at such times when they shot at people making them fall to the ground like falling leaves of autumn, in the streets of Tehran, and even continued this fierceness after the arrival of the imam, in the last days of the [victory] of the revolution.

Thus, the question is what is the motivation, what is the analysis and morale involved which makes the ummah and leader accept such a danger? The reply to this question is not too difficult for Muslims, the committed who are familiar with the teachings of God and Islam. There is an additional point to it: What I want to say is that those same characteristics of believing in God and believing in the people—which are the same thing, meeting up at a certain point—since a person who believes in God cannot be separated from the people and a person who believes in the people cannot be separated from God—if they are genuine believers in God and at least in people. Separating the people from God—and at that, a people exemplified by you, you the Hezbollah members—is impossible. Thus, the imam entered Tehran, relying on God and on divine support, on the one hand, and relying on the power of the people and the glory of the presence of the people on the scene, on the other.

In his analysis from the standpoint of political calculations, the imam used to say: This kind of presence of the people on the scene has weakened the enemy's morale so much that the enemy has not got the courage to risk such a thing. And this was a correct analysis. The same spirit which forced the shah to flee and the same weakness which forced all of them to squat in their nests and not to come out to face the roaring waves of the people. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

It was belief in God and people which created such a miracle. If the imam had not come, if the imam had not entered Tehran at that moment, if the imam had not come and taken over the leadership, from close by, of the risen masses, it is not clear what the revolution's fate would have been.

This daring and brave action of the imam showed reliance on people and God, and also the confidence that people had in divine support and their certainty that the enemy's morale was weak and that the enemy would be destroyed; and all this went into the making of this remarkable period in the history of humanity. If we look at history, throughout its length, we cannot find this glorious period which shines like a diamond in the pages of history. [passage omitted]

Today, what goes on in the world—that is, in eastern bloc countries and others, where people emerge on the scenes and attain their rights—is a small example of what occured 11 years ago in this country, on a day like today. Today the world has entered the arena of a successful experience, which our leadership and people carried out 11 years ago. It is the inheritance of the Islamic Republic of Iran that we see today the people of

the world are victorious. They deserve such a victory, may it be congratulated upon them. This is what we were also seeking.

Another point which I would like to add to this discussion is that it was due to the blessing of reliance on God and the people that the Islamic republic was able to overcome all dangers, mischief and conspiracies; that is to say the war, terrorism, economic sanctions, propaganda attacks, and all other conspiracies, each of which on its own is sufficient to crush a country and a revolution. All of those were brought upon this nation, and ultimately the superpowers waged a direct confrontation against us. But today we see again that next to the shrine of the imam, this nation—after 11 years of resistance, selflessness, martyrdom, and endurance of problems—have gathered in such a wonderful and epic-making manner.

When one looks from the air at the areas surrounding the shrine, one sees the lovers of the revolution, who are showing such revolutionary emotions and feelings. This can be a lesson for the whole world. The revolution taught its first lesson to the world, and today the world nations are producing the outcome of such a lesson. The second lesson taught to the world by this revolution and the imam is that if a nation shows resistance and stands on its own feet without reliance on others for the management of its affairs, if a nation remains independent and free in its spirit and ideology, then no power can damage that nation. [passage omitted]

That was the second lesson that the imam always taught us. Fortunately today, you in your magnificent gathering, heard that lesson once again from the tongue of the imam's momento, his dear, strong, revolutionary, and intelligent son, who spoke some of the words of the imam, words which can serve like provisions which one needs in order to travel on the path of the revolution. I hope that revolutionary nations may also learn this lesson from you that one should not abandon the field because of pressures, threats, damage, and hardships, so as to safeguard their achievements. Of course it is appropriate that next to this source of light, on the occasion of the anniversary of return of His Holiness the imam, and on the 11th spring of freedom, we should confess that it was due to the valuable blood of our martyrs, the unbearable hardships of our selfless devotees of the revolution, the patience of the esteemed families of POWs, MIAs, martyrs and selfless devotees, the resistance and steadfastness of our esteemed POWs—who are captive in the Iraqi Ba'th dungeons—and the generous support of this loyal nation, that we now have so many valuable heritages. Today we commemorate the dear memory of all those people, and salute them. Peace and salutations upon you. Goodbye to all of you.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0202193590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1605 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Council of Guardians spokesman Mohammad Emami-Kashani at Tehran University 2 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

The point I wish to discuss in this sermon with God's assistance and succor is the message of the imam of the ummah and the goals of that great man who is no longer among us during these 10 Days of Dawn. His message was to preserve the revolution. The preservation of the revolution entails certain things. From an intellectual point of view, appreciating the dimensions of the revolution is one aspect of preserving it. We should know how great it is.

The second point is that when one understands the dimensions of the revolution, one should make efforts to consolidate it. One way of making efforts for consolidating the Islamic revolution is to unite all people. All people should be in harmony with one another. If all the Muslims of the world were united and consolidated, world arrogance could not impose calamities upon them. Now in this corner of the world there is a place in the form of Islamic Iran which is the cradle of the members of the immaculate and pure family [the family of the prophet and the imams], God's peace and blessings be upon them. We should appreciate the importance of the revolution, and love for the revolution and for the imam should make us all united. [passage omitted]

Today we should make every effort to bring the goals of the revolution to fruition and should work for the advancement of society from political, cultural, and moral, as well as economic dimensions. The issue of economics requires all our efforts. It is the duty of all officials and of all people at every level from a theoretical or practical point of view to make every effort for this important principle. They should know that today is not a day for idleness. It is not a day for laziness. It is not a day for indifference. [passage omitted]

Today is the day of hard work. Today is the day of endeavor. Today is the day when we should save the country from poverty. I have said in the past that Islamic ideology preaches that Islamic societies should be rich from every point of view. They should be rich from a political point of view, from a cultural point of view, from a spiritual point of view, and from an economic point of view. It is always under such conditions that the nation can be independent. [passage omitted]

An Islamic country should be both hard-working and prosperous in every aspect. We are glad the government of the Islamic republic submitted a 5-year plan to the Majlis, which in turn ratified it, before sending it to the Council of Guardians. We also ratified it. Of course,

there were some very minor issues which the Council of Guardians brought to the attention of the Majlis. The Majlis in turn amended them. It was in fact on Thursday of that week, and not yesterday, when we wrote our reply to the Majlis, in other words our agreement that the plan is compatible with the principles of the Constitution and not in any way at variance with it. Even though following the normal procedures it was sent to the Majlis on Saturday, the Council of Guardians gave its response nine to 10 days ago. That plan is not in any way in contravention of the Islamic and constitutional principles. There are of course, those words that are often spoken and discussed, here and there.

I should certainly mention, however, that the 5-year plan does not in any way connote foreign intervention. It does not mean that a foreigner can come and establish a company in the country, but that he comes, constructs something, and in return receives money or its equivalent in commodities. That is exactly what we are doing now. For a long time, since the time of his eminence the imam, may God's blessing be upon him, we followed the same procedure. When this oil of ours is refined and exported and turned into by-products and is then returned to us, well, naturally, they take away some of it, or some money, as remuneration. That is trade.

Trade with foreigners does not mean foreign interference. Buying from and selling to foreigners does not mean foreign interference. If a foreigner comes to a country, brings in a technology according to a time schedule, and in return recieves remuneration either in money or commodities, that is not foreign sovereignty. That is not at variance with the Constitution. The Constitution states that should a foreigner come and become a proprietor here, he becomes the owner of that company, its shareholder. However, he does not become the owner, and the shareholder is the Islamic Republic. The shareholder is Iran. The owner and the proprietor is the Islamic Republic of Iran. He comes, does his work, and departs. The same goes for the other things.

In principle, in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence, the holy Koran, and Islamic sayings, we have stipulated relations with foreigners in our Constitution. We do not consider relations with other countries in the world wrong, unless they treat us with enmity, unless they wage war against us, and that is a reality that is also mentioned in the Koran. [passage omitted] That is our Constituion, and that is our Koran.

In any case, fortunately this 5-year plan. [sentence as heard] I can now point to that issue, perhaps even as the spokesman of the Council of Guardians, that if necessary, and if the honorable members of the Council of Guardians deem it necessary, I may even discuss every article and clause in that 5-year plan separately to show that they are in no way at variance with our principles of jurisprudence and the Constitution, and those that were very slightly at variance with it were sent back to the Majlis, where they were amended and returned to us. It is a firm, robust, and religious plan, compatible with Islamic jurisprudence, and endorsed by the legislative power. I hope that, God willing, our strong, hard-working, faithful, and sincere government would be able to bring that plan into fruition in the best possible way, with the support and assistance of the entire nation and strata of people. I hope that some of the country's problems will be resolved in the course of those 5 years, and that the rest will, in the same way, continue to be resolved with everyone's assistance and cooperation.

Of course, I should mention that some opinions expressed in some places inside or outside the country should not be related to each other. There are those inside the country who express their views only as an opinion without harboring any malicious intentions, while there are those who create much hue and cry outside the country, and do so with malicious intentions. There is no association between those two groups. Altogether, I would like to say that if we wish to safeguard our revolution—and we do indeed greatly care for the revolution and harbor deep affections for it—and realize the aims and objectives of the imam of the ummah, may God's blessing be upon him, and make our country a role model, then we should in all dimensions show seriousness and zest, and maintain unity and cohesion in all our works.

Another point I deem necessary to mention concerns our Muslim brothers in Sri Lanka who are under attack by infidels and non-Muslims there. They have attacked a number of our Muslim brothers and sisters and have killed a number of Muslims. Here we express serious regret and sadness and call quite clearly on the Sri Lankan Government to show decisiveness in confronting the non-Muslim forces who are pressuring Muslims and killing and harming them. We announce from here and we say that if the Sri Lankan Government confronts them decisively, obviously that will please world Muslims, it will bring world Muslims in unison. And if, God forbid, it shows slackness in stopping them and their attacks on Muslims and does not show the necessary force a government should apply to those under its control, then obviously that will cause displeasure among Muslims, and more than any others, us and our nation. I hope, God willing, that that government shows the necessay decisiveness.

At the end of my sermon, once again, I urge you to observe piety and self-restraint. [passage omitted]

As I mentioned I will let someone read the Arabic sermon, because it is very cold and [words indistinct] I welcome the dear guests of the 10 Days of Dawn who have come to the Iranian land, which is their own home and have participated in Friday prayers. I hope one day all world Muslims will stand in unison against arrogance. [passage omitted]

Military Buildup on Iraqi Border Reported

JN0302145590 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 1-2 Feb 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] European political sources have confirmed the existence of a large Iranian military buildup on the border with Iraq.

The sources added that the Iranian military buildup goes back three weeks. Therefore, it began before the eruption of the crisis between Tehran and Moscow over Azerbaijan, which has ethnic and ideological ties with northern Iran, and sensitive political and organizational relations with the Iranian opposition, which was led by Shari'at-Madari.

Velayati Meets With Lebanon's Shaykh Sha'ban

LD0402133390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement, who is at present in Tehran in order to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the Islamic Revolution's 10 Days of Dawn, met and conferred with Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, last night.

According to a Central News Unit report, in that meeting, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement, while expressing his gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts toward resolving the dispute between Lebanon's Amal and Hizballah revolutionary movements, briefed our country's minister of foreign affairs on the latest news and developments in Lebanon's politico-military scene.

Then Mr Velayati, reiterating the necessity of establishing unity and solidarity among the entire Islamic and national forces of Lebanon, pronounced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to strive to maintain a climate of fraternity and understanding between Lebanon's Amal and Hizballah revolutionary movements.

Soviet Azeri Muslims Gather Along Aras River

LD0402232690 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), Feb. 4, IRNA—Groups of Soviet Azeri Muslims held gatherings at several points along the banks of the border River Aras this afternoon, chanting Islamic slogans.

The largest gathering was at Ordubad region 20 km east of Jolfa, where over 3,000 men, women and children were seen lined across the river chanting Islamic slogans.

At the Paichi border point, around 1,000 other Azerbaijani Muslims gathered on the Soviet side of the border, while at Poldasht the scene of earlier massive gatherings, a group of 200 Muslims stood on the other side watched by Soviet militarymen.

Editorial Comments on Political Activity

PM0202145090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The Need for Political and Ideological Coordination for Those Involved in Politics"]

[Text] Healthy political activity, voicing opinions, discussions, and even rows within a correct political framework not only show the mature thinking of those involved in politics but, on the whole, create political balance in society and lessen tension.

Those involved in politics, even after all these years, have failed to move their actions along a logical path that will benefit the people. Uncoordinated political activity leaves the arena wide open for those aimless elements and whose whom we shall call "pressure groups." Under these conditions, it is not clear who is telling the truth and who is not. Ideas and discussions get muddled, and this confusion creates tension, which adds to the noise and chaos.

Let us explore the issue more openly and clearly. A political grouping called "government" has executive and coordinating duties in society and in the offices under its control. Normally there should be no tension within the government because it follows a certain policy. If there is perhaps slight discord in the cabinet which causes the affairs of the nation to slow down, of course there will be changes in the cabinet to prevent disharmony.

On the whole, the government does certain work in all areas, based on a specific policy. In that case we can say that the government is a single body with specific views, ideas, and policies.

But the field of politics is not limited to the government alone. Political groups, Majles deputies, some newspapers acting as mouthpieces, unions, some nongovernmental political organizations, and associations are all active in the political arena. The important thing is that their positions be made clear to the people. This means that the views and goals of this or that group, or of a person linked to a certain movement, must be known to the people. The people must know what ideas or beliefs their Majles deputies have and to which side their votes will be going. To have a deputy siding with one movement today and with another tomorrow shows an unstable mind and unbalanced political activity.

The need to organize, in terms of defined groups and also in terms of ideology, means coordinating and organizing political activity. It also saves the people from facing confused ideas of all colors that do not work. If political movements and actions are organized in a proper way, the "pressure groups" will be disarmed and there will no longer be any room for them in the political arena to cause tension.

The recent message of the leader to the people and to the Majles on 8 January must be taken as a warning for

political formations and those active in politics to coordinate their thoughts so that they can come closer to implementing their ideas. This will cause an increase in healthy political activity throughout the country, it will safeguard social freedoms, and—more important than that—it will enable the people to judge correctly.

Pakistan

President To Alert Troops on Kashmir Border

BK0402120690 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 3—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan presided over a high-level meeting at Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidential Palace] here on Saturday [3 February] to discuss the current uprising in occupied Kashmir, with special reference to fresh movement of Indian forces on the line of control.

According to informed sources, the high-level meeting which continued for about four hours, discussed all "eventualities" arising out of the increased deployment of forces by India on the line of control.

During the meeting, it was reportedly decided to fully alert the Armed Forces, especially on Kashmir borders and to provide all necessary reinforcement to military troops stationed on the line of control. The commanders on the various border posts, it was decided, would be asked to keep not only full vigilance but also to provide protection to life and property of the civilian population living in the border areas in Azad Kashmir.

The repeated threats being issued by the Indian leadership were also discussed during the meeting and it was decided that Pakistan would continue supporting the just cause of the Kashmiris and no pressure in this regard would be accepted.

The meeting believed that the current uprising in occupied Kashmir was the result of 40-year-long repression and that it was an indigenous, popular and spontaneous movement and that Pakistan had nothing to do with it.

It was, however, pointed out that Pakistan could not remain aloof from the issue. "The Kashmiris should continue receiving passive support of the Pakistan Government."

Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Aslam Beg, reportedly briefed the high-level meeting about the overall preparedness of the Armed Forces to meet any challenge against the country's territorial integrity.

Yaqub Khan Denies Army on 'High Alert'

BK0502031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said that there are no reports of Indian troop movement along the line of actual control.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, he said it is his belief that India is keen to avoid a conflict on the Kashmir issue. He said Pakistan is also keen to avoid such a confrontation. He reaffirmed that it is essential for both the countries to keep a channel of communication open to avoid any misunderstanding. He described the recently concluded talks between the two countries on the release of the detained fishermen as a positive step toward this direction.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister denied that the Pakistan Army has been placed on a state of high alert.

Government Gives 'Special Briefing' on Kashmir

BK0302163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Efforts are continuing at various levels to create a national consensus on the Kashmir issue after a mammoth people's movement in Indian-occupied Kashmir. In this connection, the federal government is giving a special briefing in Islamabad tomorrow. Foreign Office officials will brief political leaders on the baseless propaganda leveled by India on the grave situation in the occupied territories after the Jammu and Kashmir people's struggle and the consequent involvement of Pakistan in the movement.

Radio Pakistan representatives understand that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is now in Karachi, is arriving in the capital on a special flight and is expected to participate in the briefing.

An official spokesman told a Radio Pakistan representative that the four provincial chief ministers—Mian Nawaz Sharif, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, and Syed Qaim Ali Shah—will participate in the briefing. This briefing will be held in the prime minister's secretariat tomorrow.

The names of the leaders expected to participate in the briefing are as follows: Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid, the speakers of the four provincial assemblies, leader of the combined opposition Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Awami National Party leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan, and Pakistan Democratic Party leader Nawazbzada Nasrullah Khan.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Senior Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Justice Minister Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan, adviser on national security Iqbal Akhund, Kashmir Affairs Minister Mohammad Hanif Khan, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Ahmad Saeed Awan, and Minister of State for Defense Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, will also attend the briefing.

The president has summoned a joint session of Parliament in Islamabad at 1630 on 10 February. The joint session will

consider the Kashmir issue and evolve a consensus of the elected representatives to guide the government. Foreign Minister Sahabazada Yaqub Khan is expected to initiate the discussion and conclude it later.

Support for Kashmiris Affirmed

BK0402143490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Various parliamentary party leaders who met in Islamabad today in connection with the briefing on the Kashmir situation have reiterated that the Kashmir issue is of paramount importance to Pakistan. They have reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan at a news conference in Islamabad after the briefing of political leaders.

Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory, the leaders said that India should stop the atrocities against the Kashmiri people and give them an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination under the UN resolutions, which provides for a free and fair plebiscite. All the participants at the meeting emphatically said that the nation is as united as ever on the Kashmir issue. After the briefing, the parliamentary leaders prayed for the martyrs of Kashmir, who sacrificed their lives for justice and truth.

In her message at the briefing, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that discussions between the government and the opposition parties on the Kashmir issue will continue in the interest of the nation.

Senior Federal Miniser Begum Nusrat Bhutto presided over the briefing, which was attended by the chief ministers of the four provinces, the prime minsiter of Azad Kashmir, federal ministers, and opposition leaders in Parliament.

Officials, Party Leaders Comment

BK0402162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Various parliamentary party leaders who met in Islamabad today in connection with the briefing on the Kashmir situation have reiterated that the Kashmir issue is of paramount importance to Pakistan. They have said that Pakistan is determined to support the people of Jammu and Kashmir so that they may realize the right to self-determination. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan at a news conference in Islamabad after the briefing of political leaders. [passage omitted]

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Malik Mohammad Saeed Awan described the briefing as extremely fruitful and said that all participants of the briefing extended total support to the ideals of the Kashmiris. Ahmad Saeed Awan said that opposition leaders have cateogrically assured that they will cooperate fully with the government at every level on the Kashmir issue.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said that the opposition leaders have stressed the need to intensify efforts of the government to muster support for the Kashmir issue. He said that today's meeting was a demonstration of solidarity and consensus of the people of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and that their sentiments on this subject are extremely serious. When asked whether Pakistan will raise this issue at the United Nations, Yaqub Khan said the path is open and Pakistan is reviewing this issue in every aspect.

Answering another question, he said that the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [IC0] has made a solid statement on the Kashmir issue, and that some countries, for instance Iran and Turkey, have issued statements on this issue. The Kashmir issue has been raised before all Muslim countries as well as several other countries, and all of them have deep sympathy for the people of Kashmir. Pakistan has established contacts with the ICO and has also been thinking about projecting the Kashmir issue in a better way.

The foreign minister said Pakistan is establishing contacts with all countries concerned in order to counter Indian propaganda of Pakistan's interference. He said China is at the top of the list of countries with whom Pakistan has established contacts. He said that at the end of his visit to New Delhi, it was announced that the source of contacts between India and Pakistan will be kept open to prevent any misunderstanding, and talks between the two countries would continue as per the earlier schedule. He also said that as far as high-level contacts are concerned, there is no proposal on this yet from either side.

In her inaugural and valedictory speech at the briefing, Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto said it has been proven that despite political differences, there are no other differences between the leaders on the security and unity of the country. This meeting reflects the solidarity of the people of Pakistan with the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue of realizing the right to self-determination. She categorically stated that Pakistan does not want confrontation or conflict with India. However, it will continue its support for the legitimate rights of the people of Kashmir and for the political settlement of the issue.

In her message at the briefing, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that discussions between the government and the opposition parties on the Kashmir issue will continue in the interest of the nation.

The president of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad and the chief minister of Punjab, Mian Nawaz Sharif, said the Kashmir issue is our ethical and national responsibility and has been discussed in the same spirit.

Expressing satisfaction with the government's stand on Kashmir, Pakistan Jamhoori Party chief Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said that we fully support the steps taken and the strategy adopted by the government on the issue.

Jamiat-i-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad said that it is the ethical and legal responsibility of Pakistan to provide moral and material help to the Kashmiri people, who have launched a struggle to liberate their territory from Indian domination. He said the international community has also accepted the fact that India does not have any ethical or legal right to deprive the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination.

Federal Minister for Justice Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani has said that the government will take all steps at the diplomatic level to win international support. Special representatives will be sent to all important nations, especially the member countries of the UN Security Council, and the leaders of these countries will be apprised of the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and of the atrocities of India on the Kashmiri Muslims.

COP: Pakistani 'Lip Service'

BK0502115790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 5 (AFP)—Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government Monday [5 February] of lacking seriousness in settling the Kashmir issue with India.

"They are paying only a lip service and a seriousness is lacking on the government side," Mr. Jatoi said at a press conference here.

Mr. Jatoi, as chief of the Combined Opposition Parties (COP), is Ms. Bhutto's chief parliamentary rival.

The news conference was held after the government briefed COP leaders overnight on its response to the developments in Kashmir, which has been disputed by the two sub-continent neighbours since their independence in 1947.

More than 100 people have been killed in the northern Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since Indian troops moved in last month to quell a violent movement by Moslem secessionists. It is India's only predominantly Moslem state.

Meanwhile, a nationwide strike paralyzed Pakistan on Monday after a COP call "to condemn the Indian atrocities" in Kashmir.

Numerous marches were held throughout the nation, as both ruling and opposition parties staged rallies to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir.

Protesters in Rawalpindi, some carrying portraits of the late military president Mohammed Ziaul Haq, barricaded roads with burning tyres. They also torched effigies of Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh at several locations.

Ijazul Haq, Mr. Zia's son, led a large procession which ended at Liaqat Gardens in Rawalpindi, where other opposition leaders criticised Indian "repression" during their speeches.

There were about a dozen marches just in Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan.

"The Kashmir issue is as old as Pakistan," Mr. Jatoi said, adding that the people of the area had now risen by themselves.

He said the government "initially kept quiet" and that the opposition was compelled to convene a National Assembly (lower house) session on the Kashmir issue scheduled to meet late Monday.

A session of the assembly may be called upon the request of one-fifth of the members.

But Mr. Jatoi said the government "countered" the opposition's move by calling a joint session of both houses of Parliament on February 10.

"They are just trying to preempt us," he said.

He said it was Pakistan's "moral and legal duty to extend every support" to the Kashmiris, "naturally bearing in mind that nobody wants a war" with India.

Mr. Jatoi said all forums should be utilized to force India to honour both a United Nations resolution on a plebiscite in Kashmir, and the 1972 Simla accord which called for peaceful resolution of Indo-Pakistani disputes.

He said in reply to a question that inaction on the Kashmir issue could cause popular resentment.

"We do not subscribe to agitation, but we cannot stop it, either," Mr. Jatoi said.

He also called for an end to the ongoing confrontation between Ms. Bhutto's central government and the opposition, which governs two of Pakistan's four provinces.

"The basic need is to set our house in order," he said.

Nation Observes Day of Solidarity With Kashmiris

BK0502030290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The nation is observing today as a day of solidarity with the people of the occupied Jammu and Kashmir to express concrete support for the heroic struggle waged by the Kashmiri people to achieve their inalienable rights to self-determination.

Today is a national holiday, and all business centers, bazaars, shopping centers, educational institutions, and government and private offices are closed. Radio Pakistan's correspondents report from all over the country that the people belonging to all sections and all walks of life have set up special programs to observe the day. On this occasion, seminars, protest demonstrations, public rallies, and processions will be organized in the entire

country, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The day is the part of the week of solidarity with the Kashmiris earlier announced by the government.

People belonging to various walks of life are holding meetings and rallies and organizing processions in various towns and cities to express their solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. At a meeting in Rawalpindi, speakers demanded a settlement of the Kashmir problem according to the relevant UN resolutions. They condemned the atrocities committed by the Indian forces.

The women's wing of the Pakistan People's Party's Punjab branch held a demonstration in Lahore yesterday to express their solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

Azad Kashmir Assembly Condemns Indian Actions

BK0402132890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly, which began its winter session in Muzaffarabad today, suspended the question hour to begin general discussion on the grave situation in the Indian-held Kashmir.

The Azad Kashmir law minister, Chowdhury Abdul Aziz, moved a resolution in the house condemning oppressive actions and atrocities by the Indian forces on the Kashmiri Muslims struggling for the liberation of their motherland. It called for implementation of the relevant UN resoltion guaranteeing the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Official Accuses India of Abetting Sind Violence

BK0402112490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Karachi, Feb 4 (AFP)—Pakistan has accused India of fomenting violence in the southern province of Sind to punish Islamabad for what New Delhi alleges are its efforts to stir up trouble in Indian-held Kashmir, a newspaper reported here Sunday.

"There are clear indications of an Indian abetment in the recent trouble in Sind," Pakistan's Home Secretary S.K. Mahmud told JANG, the mass circulation Urdu-language daily.

Relations between the traditionally hostile neighbours are at their lowest point since their 1971-1972 war, following recent separatist violence in Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir state which left more than 100 dead.

India has blamed Islamabad for the unrest in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Denying the allegations, Pakistan said the trouble was indigenous and it would continue to speak for the Kashmiris' right to self determination as promised by the United Nations in 1949.

An unidentified third country has informed Pakistan about the alleged Indian plot, which included bombings, missile attacks and shootings, according to JANG.

Pakistan's Sind Province, which has a sizable Hindu population, borders India.

Authorities clamped an indefinite curfew overnight in the Sind town of Nawabshah. Violence erupted there after two people were killed when masked men fired on Muslims returning from prayers late Friday. Another was also killed in a shooting incident Saturday.

Hyderabad, the second largest city in Sind, has been under curfew since rioting broke out Tuesday after unidentified gunmen killed two people in the city.

The incident sparked ethnic violence between local Sindhis and the Urdu-speaking Muslim Muhajirs. The clashes have claimed more than a dozen lives and a police crackdown has led to scores of arrests.

Mr. Mahmud told JANG that several security agencies had been put on alert.

"All that has happened in Hyderabad and Nawabshah is part of the Indian plan," Mr. Mahmud said.

India is trying "to distract attention from the grave situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir," he said.

Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain meanwhile on Saturday accused the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of leading the country toward martial law.

Alleging that PPP activists had kidnapped over 40 members of the All Pakistan Muhajir Student Organisation (APMSO), Mr. Hussain issued a 24-hour-ultimatum to release all those held.

If they fail to do so, he said, "the whole country will come out to protest the atrocities."

He also appealed to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to intervene in the problem, which he said had been fostered by PPP-sponsored "acts of terrorism."

A statement from the Sind Province chief minister's office meanwhile warned the MQM leadership against masterminding "terrorist and criminal activities."

The office accused "MQM terrorists" of kidnapping 79 PPP workers and youths in the city.

The statement warned that if the workers and youths were not released immediately, the Sind government would crack down hard and apprehend all criminals.